

A SIDE CHARACTER'S LOVE STORY

3

Akane Tamura



A SIDE
CHARACTER'S
LOVE STORY

3

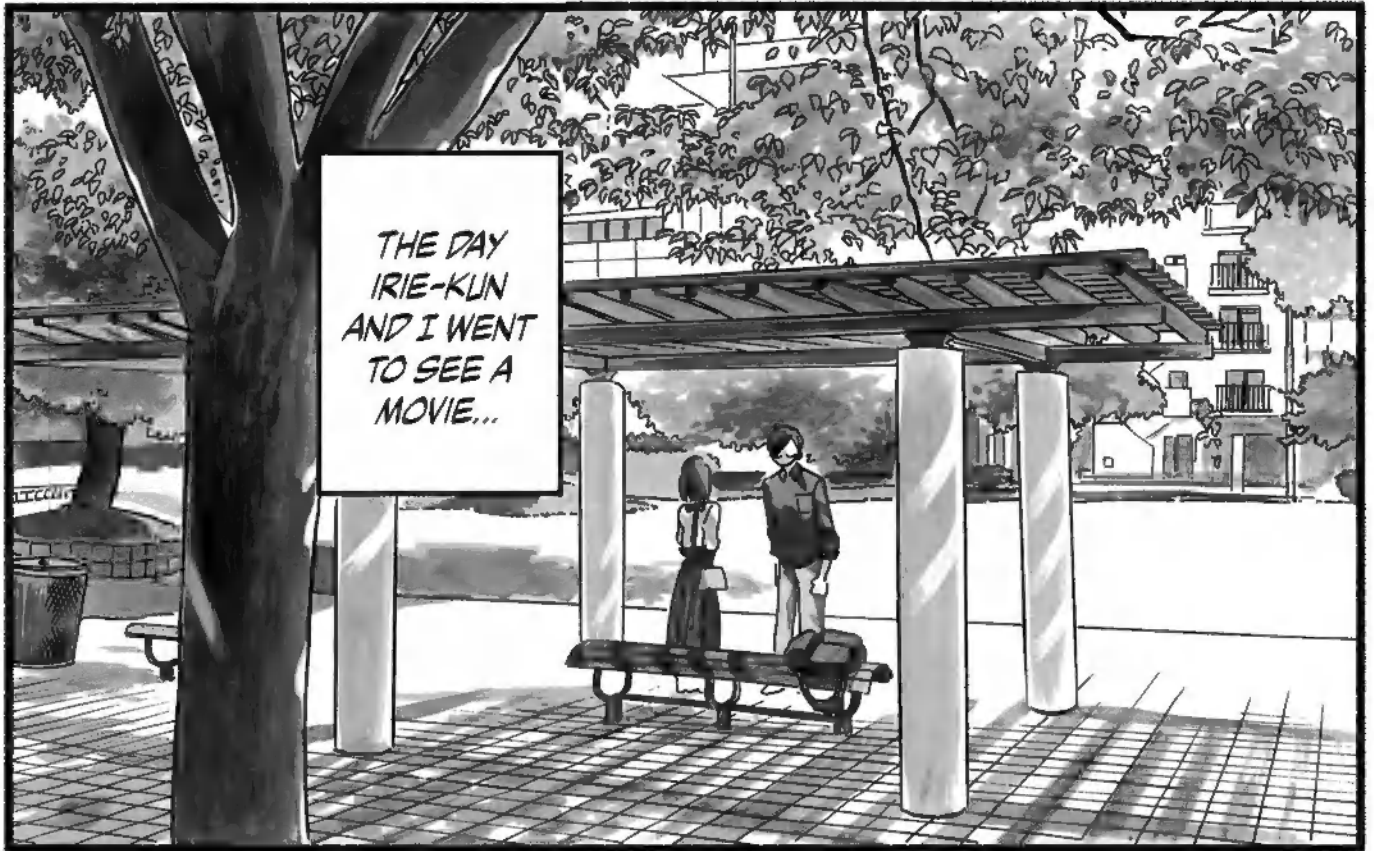


Akane Tamura

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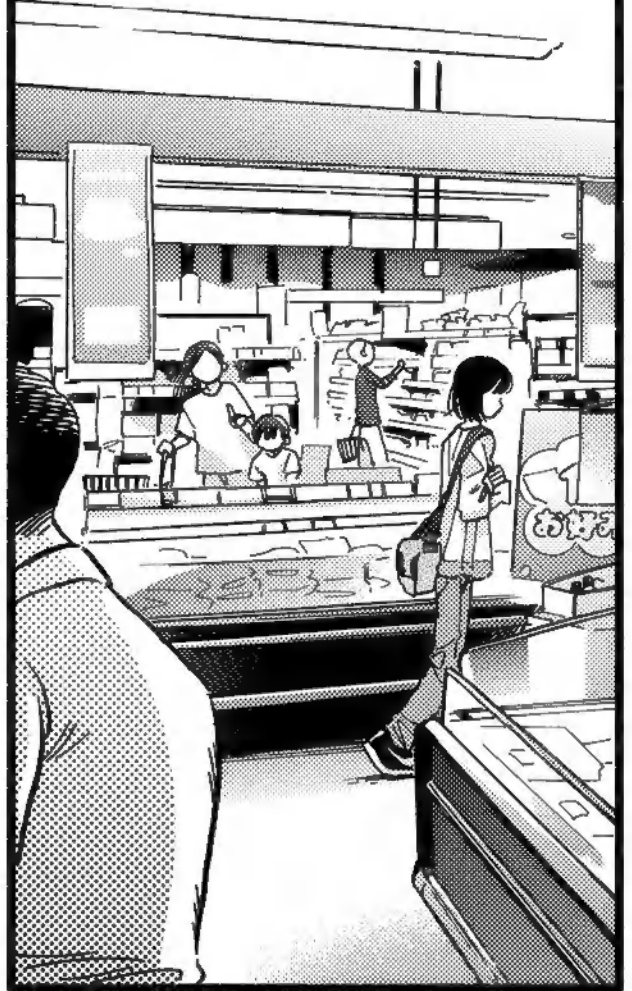
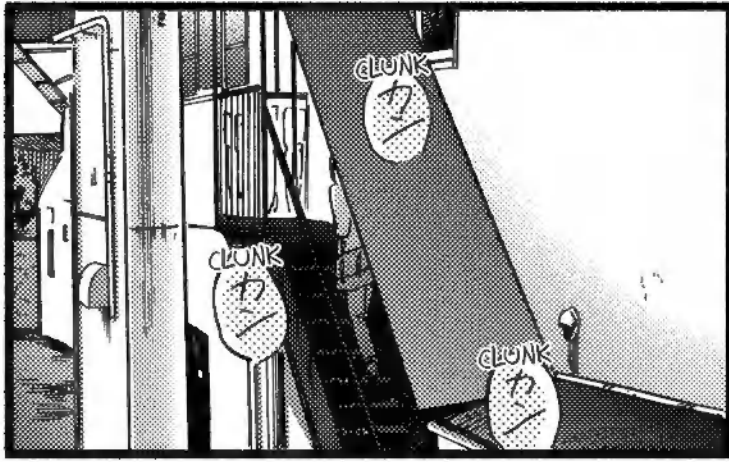
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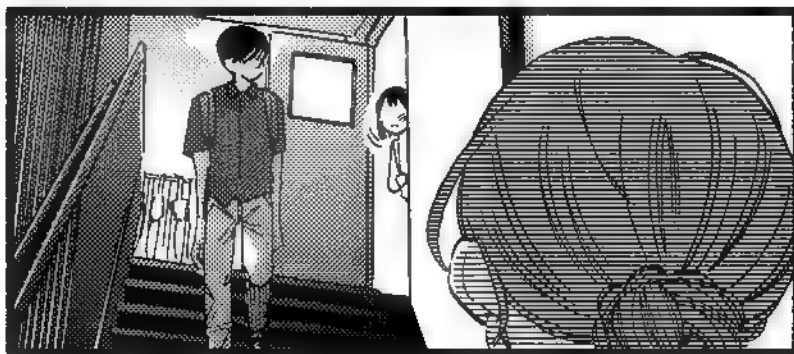
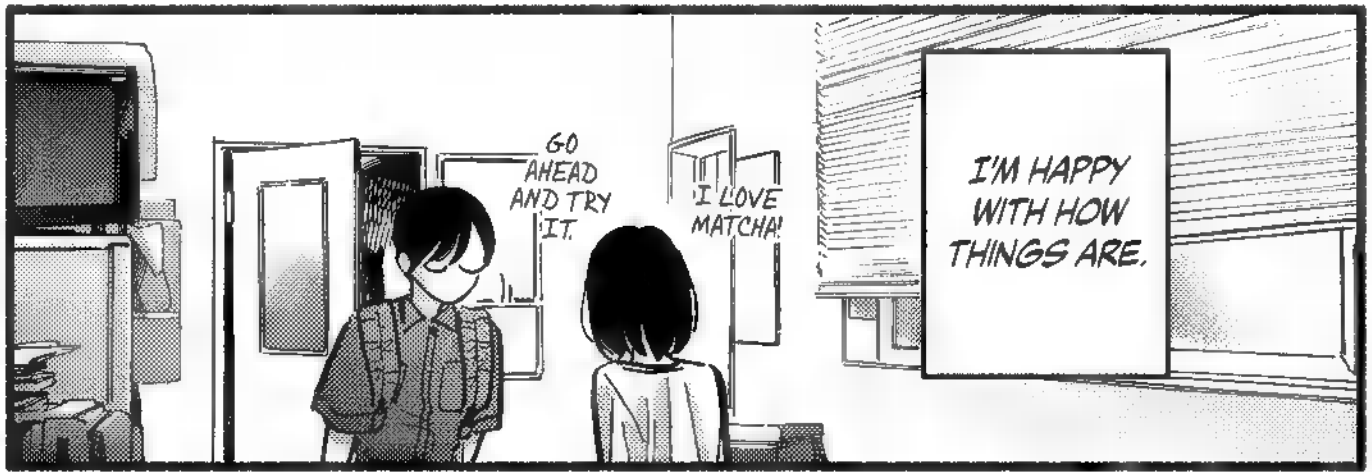


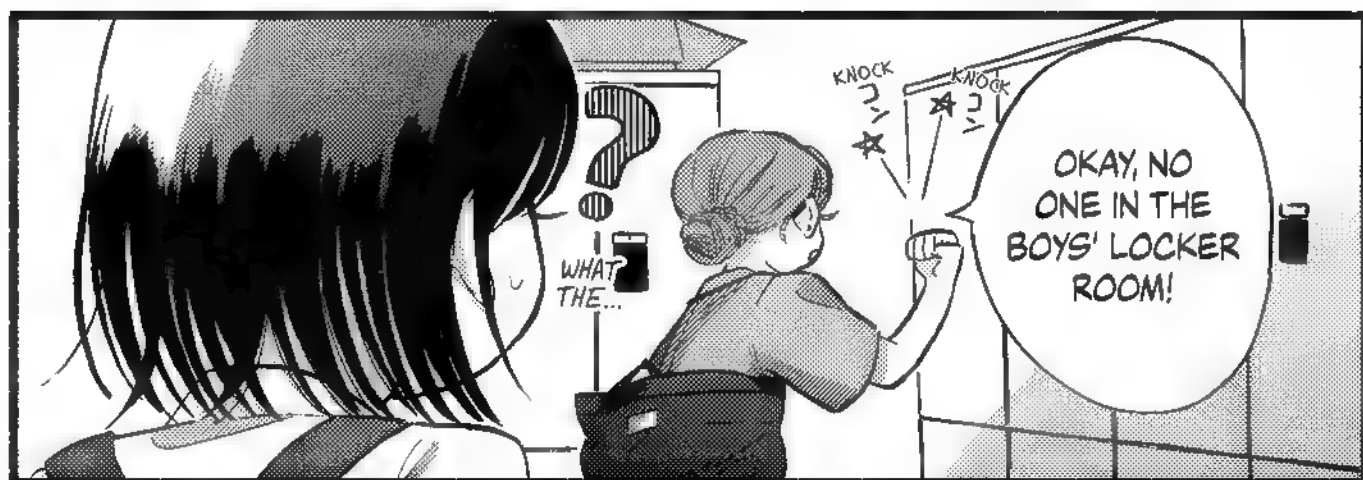
**A SIDE
CHARACTER'S
LOVE STORY**
Akane Tamura



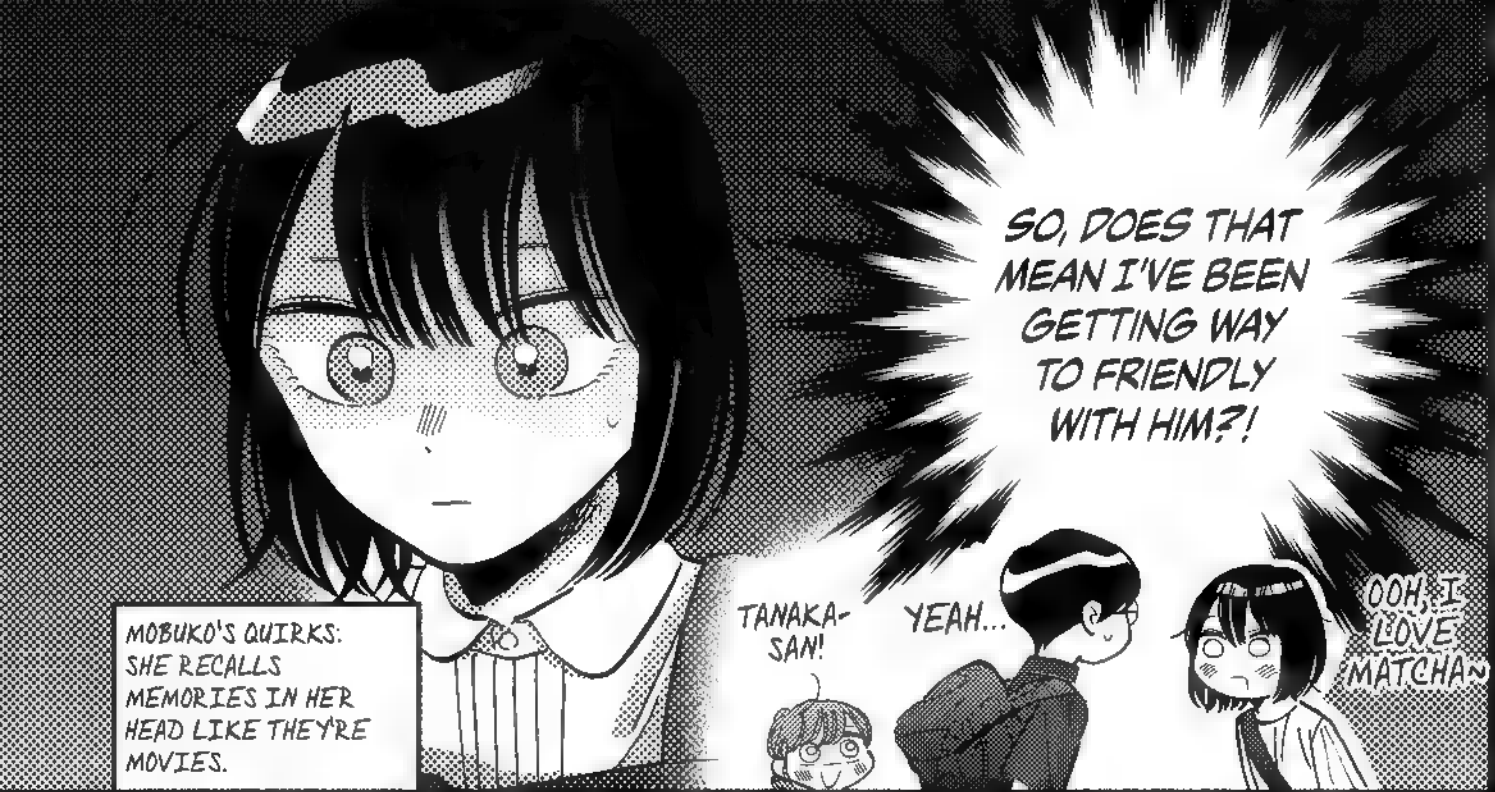












MOBUKO'S QUIRKS:
SHE RECALLS
MEMORIES IN HER
HEAD LIKE THEY'RE
MOVIES.

SO, DOES THAT
MEAN I'VE BEEN
GETTING WAY
TO FRIENDLY
WITH HIM?!

TANAKA-
SAN!

YEAH...

OOH, I
LOVE
MATCHA~



...NOT TO
BE TOO
OBVIOUS TO
IRIE-KUN...

...AND TO NOT
CAUSE HIM ANY
TROUBLE.



I NEED TO
BE MORE
CAREFUL...



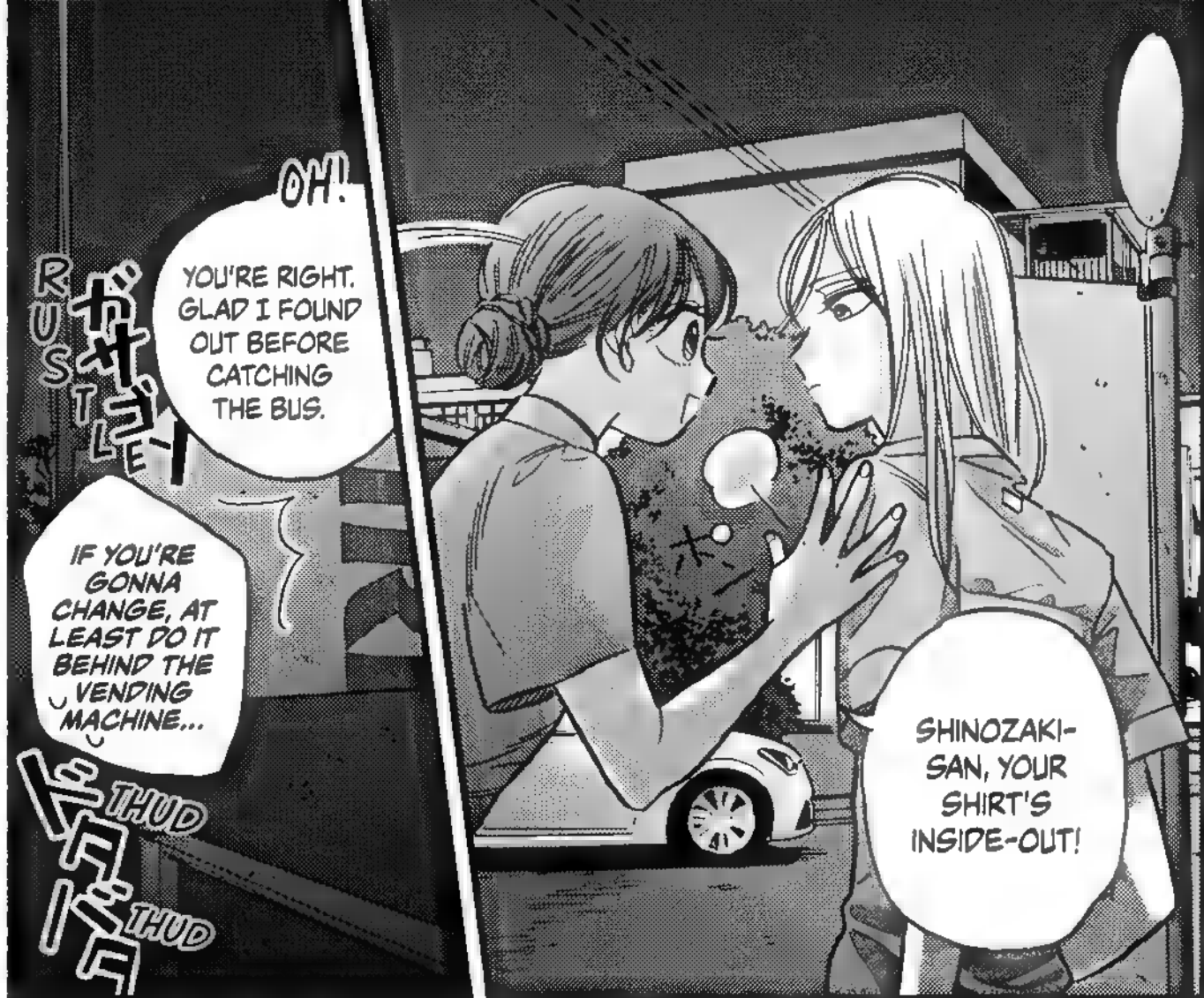


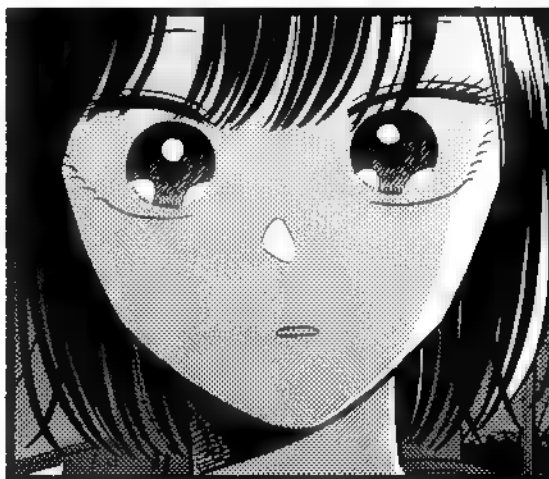




MOBUKO'S QUIRKS:
SHE HAS NO
CONFIDENCE IN HER
OWN DECISIONS.









BACK THEN,
DIDN'T IT TAKE
YOU A LOT OF
COURAGE...



...TO
SPEAK TO
IRIE-SAN?



**YOU MEAN
YOU DON'T
REMEMBER
THE THING
I'M TALKING
ABOUT?!**



WHAT
EXACTLY ARE YOU
REFERING TO?
BACK WHEN?
YOU'RE SURE
IT WAS ME?



...AND THINGS
ENDED KIND OF
AWKWARDLY...

...



LISTEN.

A WHILE AGO,
WHEN I WAS
ASKING YOU
ABOUT IRIE-
SAN...



"YOU
NEED TO
TALK THINGS
OUT WITH
IRIE-SAN."



"I'M SORRY."



"YOU EXPLAINED
EVERYTHING
JUST FINE."



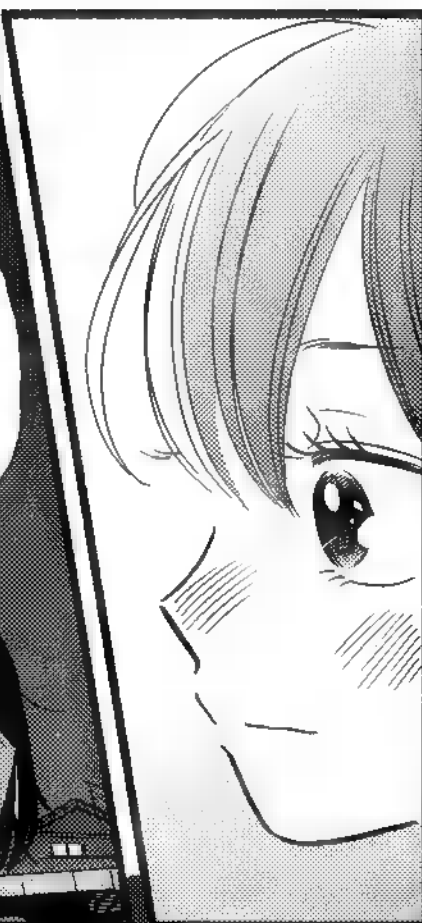
YES.



YOU
REMEMBER
NOW,
RIGHT?



YOU HAVEN'T
REALIZED IT
YOURSELF...



I COULDN'T
ASK AT THE
TIME...

SO YOU SAID
SOMETHING
TO HIM, DIDN'T
YOU?

I-I
TALKED
TO HIM...

JUST
SO YOU
KNOW

THEY ALL ATE BEEF
BOWLS TOGETHER.



...BUT I THINK
YOU'RE VERY
COURAGEOUS,
TANAKA-SAN.



I DON'T
REALLY
KNOW IF I'M
COURAGEOUS.

BUT...



...AND
THAT TIME,
AS WELL...



BACK
THEN...



A large, close-up, black and white illustration of a young woman's face. She has long, dark hair with bangs and is looking slightly to the right with a soft, contemplative expression. Her eyes are large and detailed.

IT'S
BECAUSE I
FEEL THIS
WAY...

A black and white illustration of a young man and a young woman sitting at a long wooden table in what appears to be a cafe or a quiet outdoor seating area. The man is on the left, wearing a light-colored shirt, and the woman is on the right, wearing a striped shirt. They are both looking down at small objects in their hands, possibly phones or small books. A large, light-colored umbrella is visible behind them, and the background shows a hazy landscape.

...AND THE
FEELINGS I
HAVE FOR HIM.

A black and white illustration of a street scene. In the foreground, there's a building with a tiled roof and a downspout. The street leads into the distance, where other houses and trees are visible under a cloudy sky. A utility pole with wires is on the right.

...THAT
NOW...



...I CAN TALK
SO CASUALLY
WITH THE GUY
I LIKE.



IT FEELS LIKE
A MIRACLE...

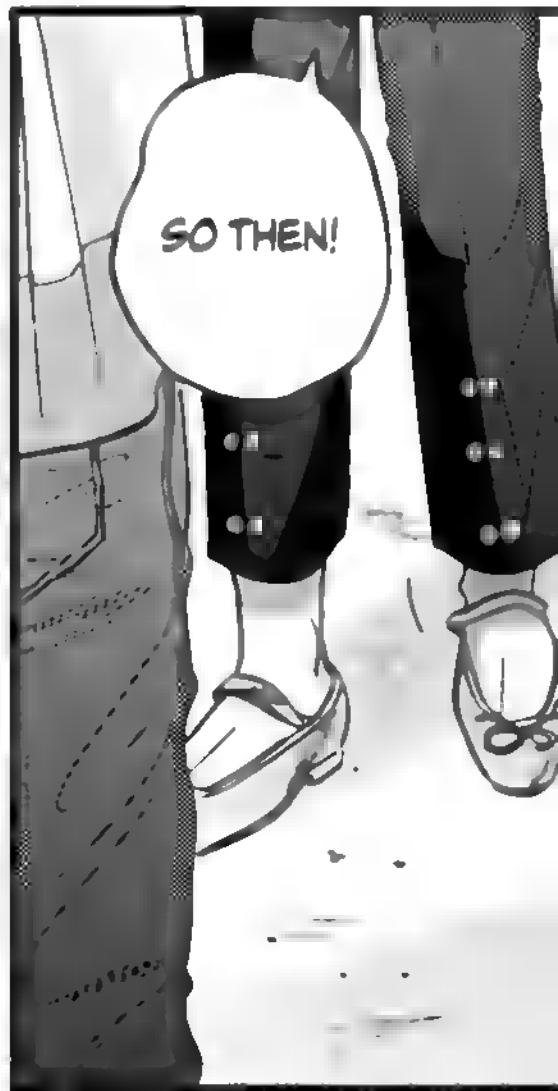
...THAT
WE EVEN
BECAME THIS
CLOSE.

WOW,
A FULL
MOON.



WHAT
WILL YOU
DO NOW?

SO THEN!





* A LIGHT, CASUAL KIMONO.





FAVORITE FROZEN TREATS





**A SIDE
CHARACTER'S
LOVE STORY**
Akane Tamura











HE WAS KIND
AND ADORABLE,
AND WE HAD
SO MUCH FUN
TOGETHER.



I NEVER
TOLD HIM
HOW I FELT.



YEAH...



I WAS HAPY
ENOUGH JUST
TO SPEND TIME
TOGETHER
WITH HIM.



THE FALL
OF OUR
SECOND
YEAR...



UNTIL THE
SCHOOL
TRIP!!

I-I
UNDERSTA--





I TRADED
MY RINE
CONTACT INFO
WITH MIZU-
SHIMA-SAN!



SHE WAS IN
MY CLAS OUR
FIRST YEAR.
SHE'S IN
KENDO
CLUB...

AND THAT
IS...

I
GUESS
YOU'VE
NEVER
MET
HER.

OH

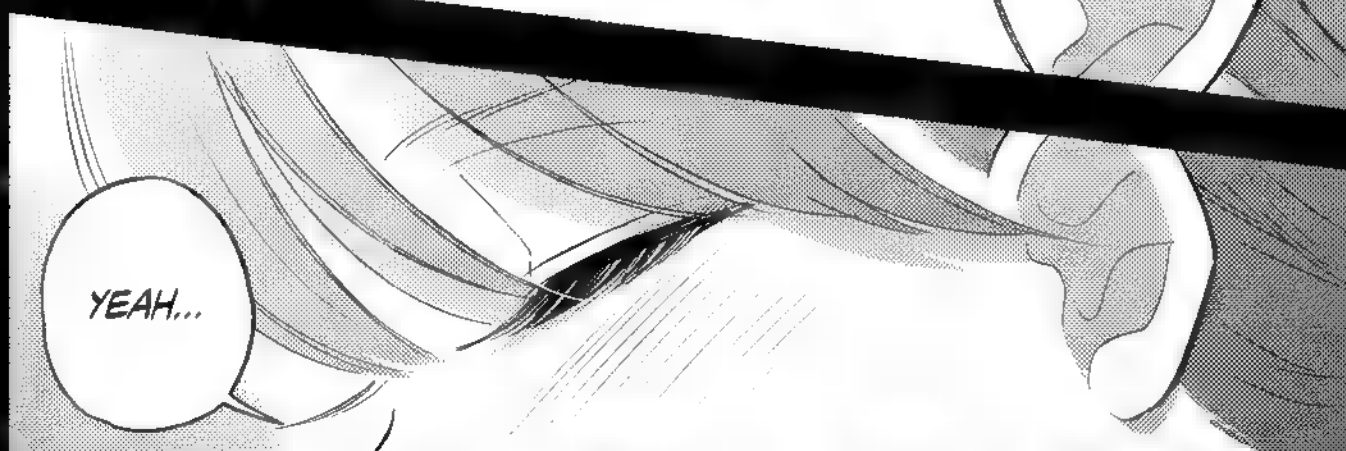


...BUT THIS
MUST BE A
SCHOOL TRIP
MIRACLE!
HECK YEAH!

WHEN
WE ENDED UP
IN DIFFERENT
CLASSES,
I FIGURED I'D
GIVE UP...



I'VE NEVER
SAID ANYTHING,
BUT I'VE ALWAYS
LIKED HER.





...WERE...



THINGS WENT
REALLY WELL AND
THEY STARTED
DATING.

SEE?
THEY'RE STILL
TOGETHER!



FREEZE

SO
NICE...
RIGHT?



OH!

IT'S OKAY! I'M
TOTALLY FINE NOW!
PEACHY KEEN! WE'RE
STILL FRIENDS!

I--
I SEE.

NOD
TIC

NOD
TIC



OH...

THEY'RE
SO LOVEY-
DOVEY!

NOT SURE HOW
TO RESPOND



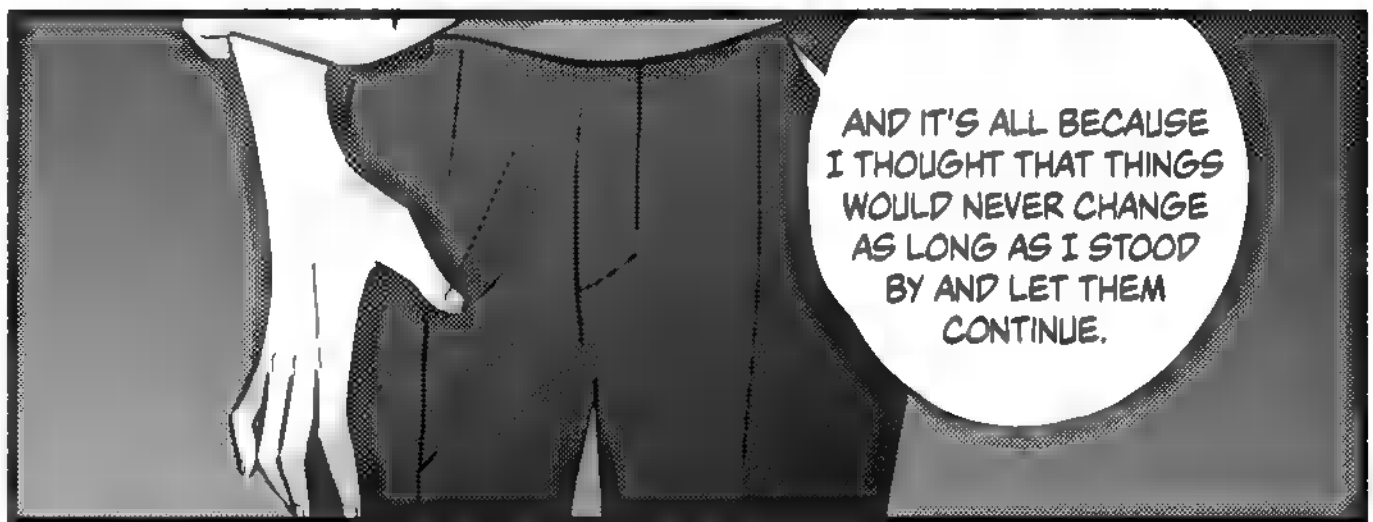
THERE WERE A LOT OF THINGS THAT I DIDN'T KNOW ABOUT HIM, EITHER.

JUST LIKE HOW MOMO-CHAN NEVER KNEW ABOUT MY TRUE FEELINGS,



BUT,

THE REGRET I FEEL IS REAL.



AND IT'S ALL BECAUSE I THOUGHT THAT THINGS WOULD NEVER CHANGE AS LONG AS I STOOD BY AND LET THEM CONTINUE.

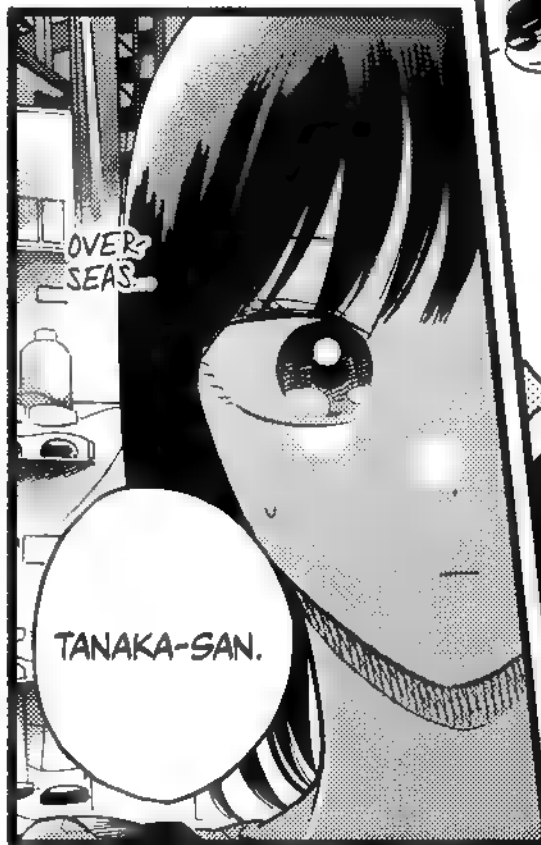


HUH?

AND THE SAME IS TRUE WITH IRIE-SAN!

WHOOSH
K*
P!





TANAKA-SAN.



OR HE MIGHT
EVEN MOVE
OVERSEAS
NEXT YEAR!

OR MAYBE
HE'LL QUIT
HIS JOB NEXT
MONTH OUT OF
NOWHERE!

HE COULD
SUDDENLY HAVE
A GIRLFRIEND
TOMORROW!

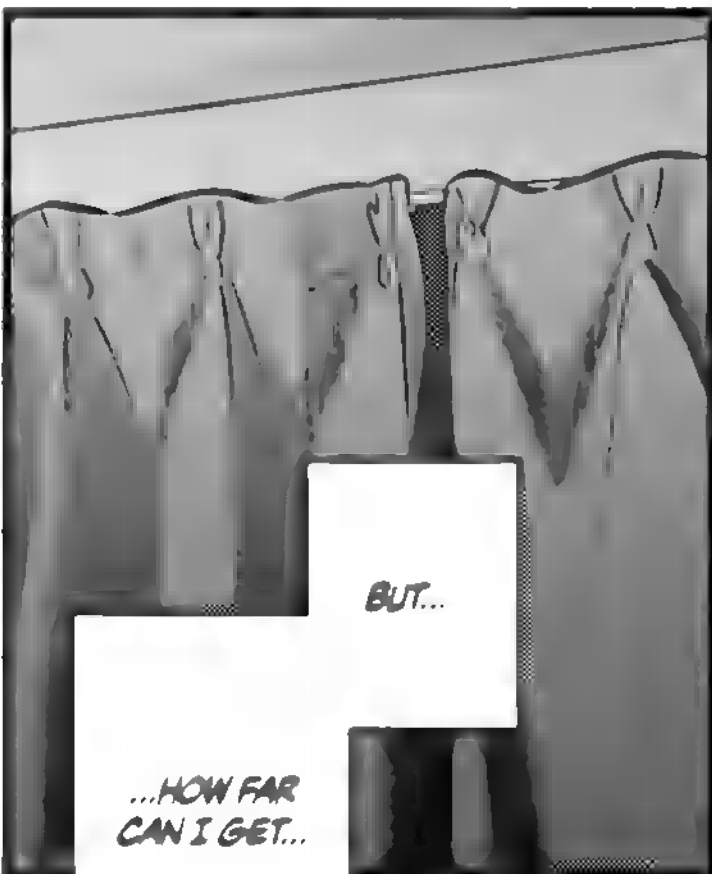
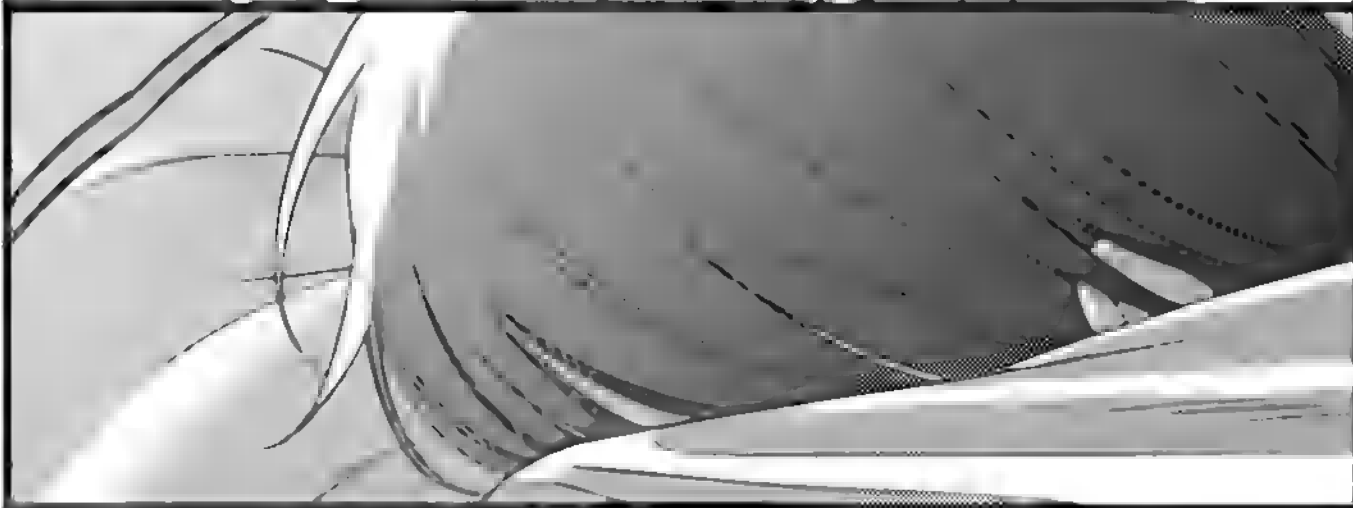
H-
HUH...?



...YOU CAN'T LET
"KEEPING THINGS
HOW THEY ARE"
BE THE END OF
THE LINE.

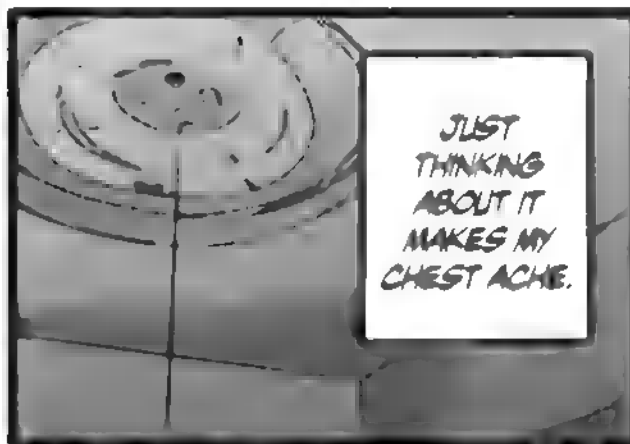
WHEN IT
COMES TO
LOVE...





BUT...

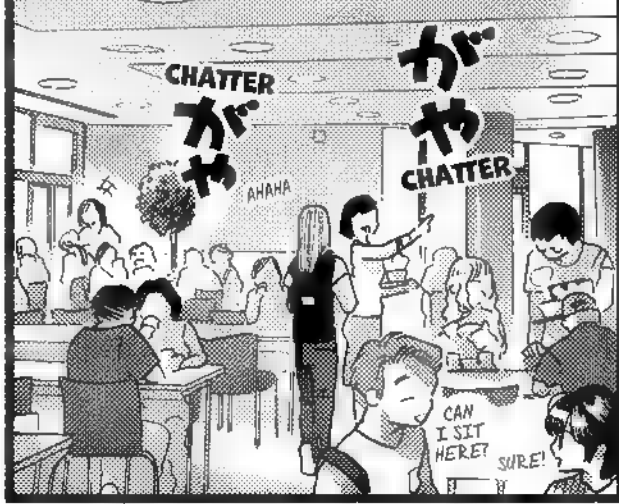
...HOW FAR
CAN I GET...



JUST
THINKING
ABOUT IT
MAKES MY
CHEST ACHE.

I GET IT
NOW.



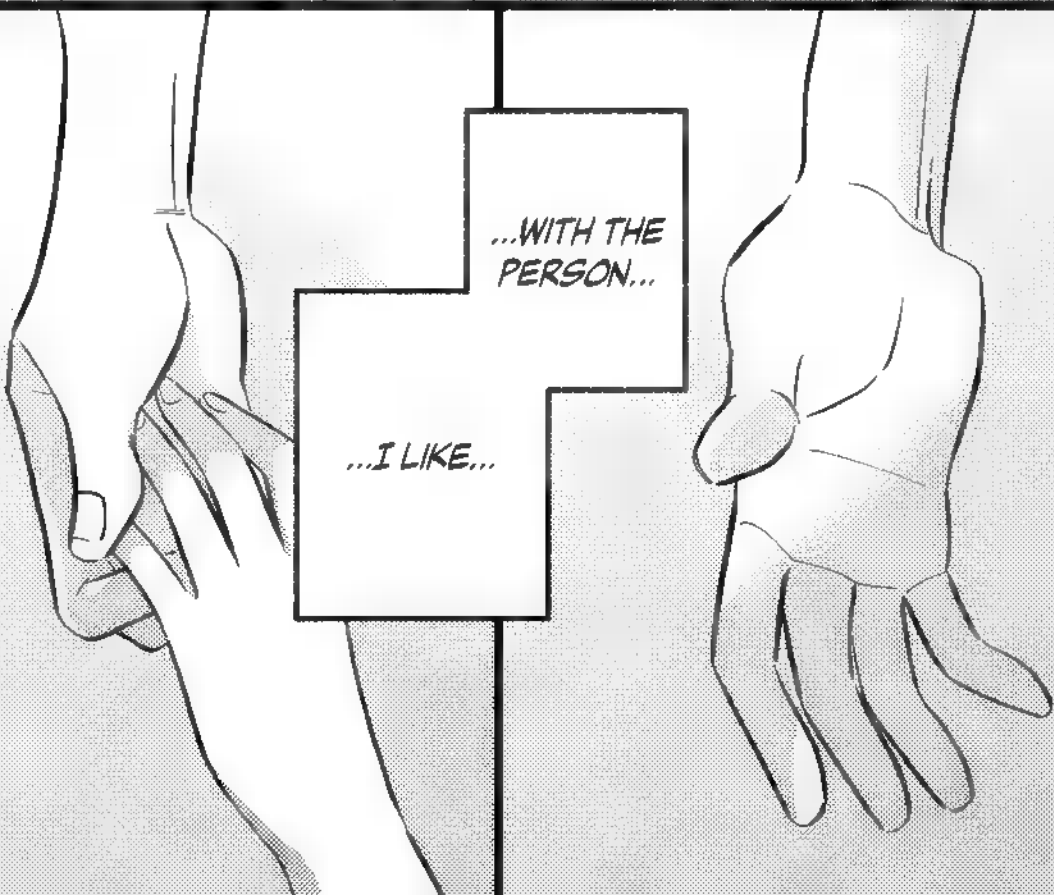








HOLDING
HANDS...



...WITH THE
PERSON...

...I LIKE...



*A SPICY STIR-FRY DISH.

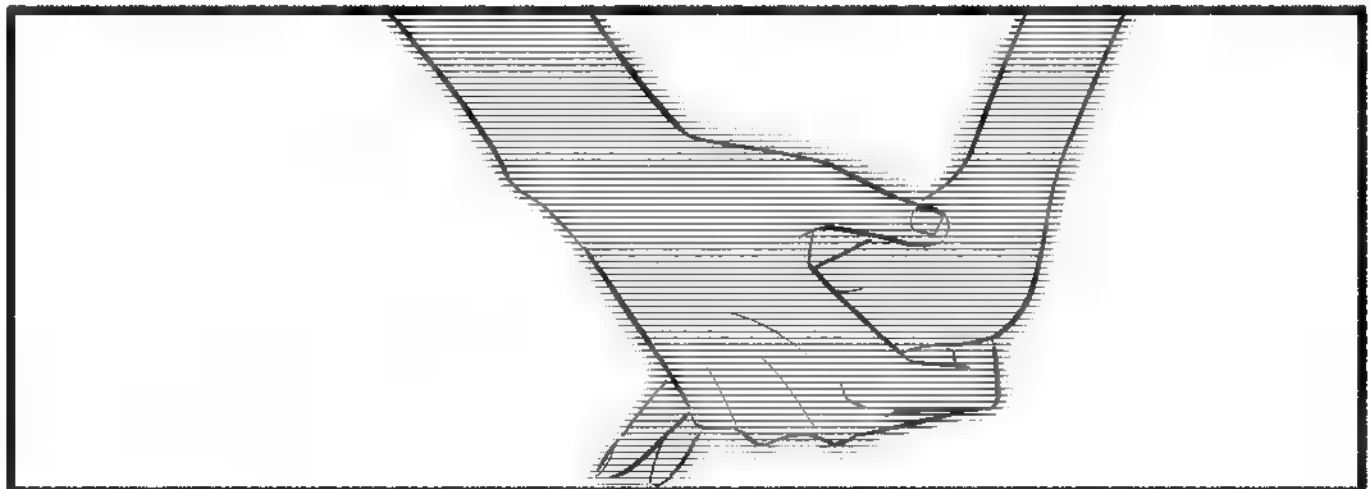




BUT
STILL...



I'M NOT
ONE TO
DAYDREAM...

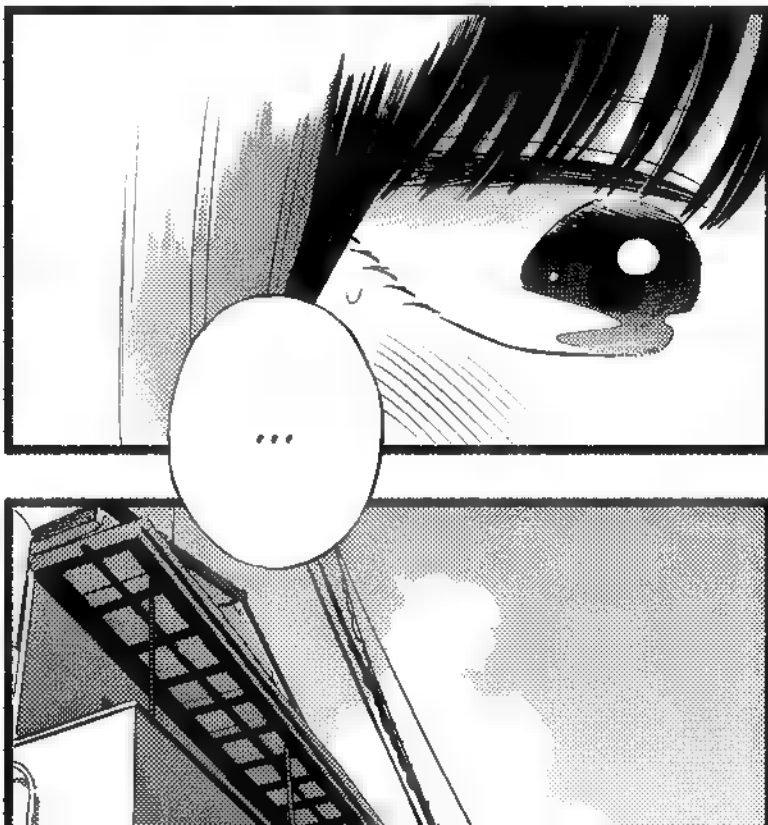


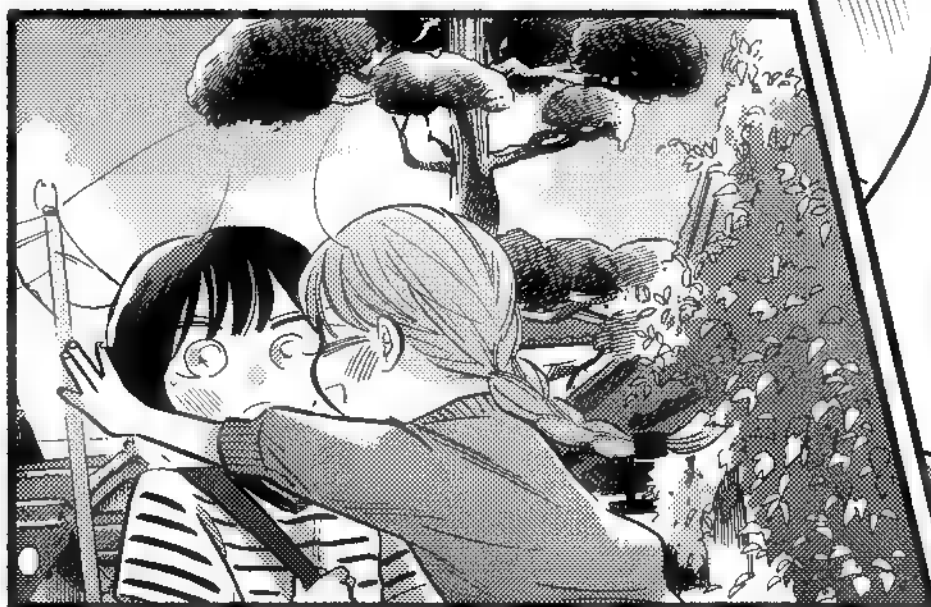
...OVER AND
OVER IN MY
HEAD.



...THAT
SCENE
KEEPS
REPLAYING...









I'M CERTAIN...



...THAT
YOUR WISH
WIL COME
TRUE.



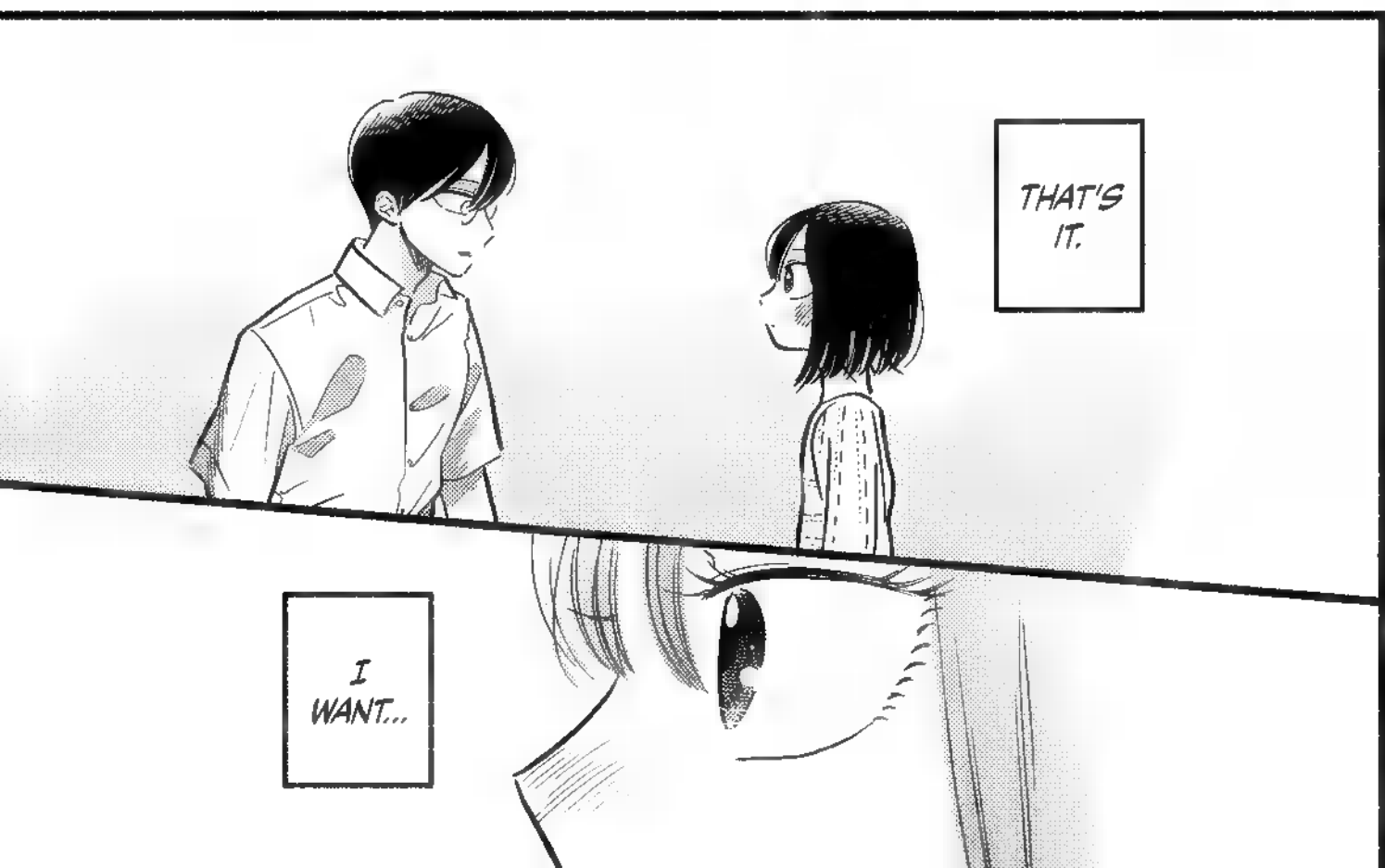
I'M SURE YOU
CAN DREAM UP
A WAY TO MAKE
IT HAPPEN FOR
REAL, RIGHT?



COME
TRUE...?
UM...

YAY! ♥
I'M SO
EXCITED!

YES!

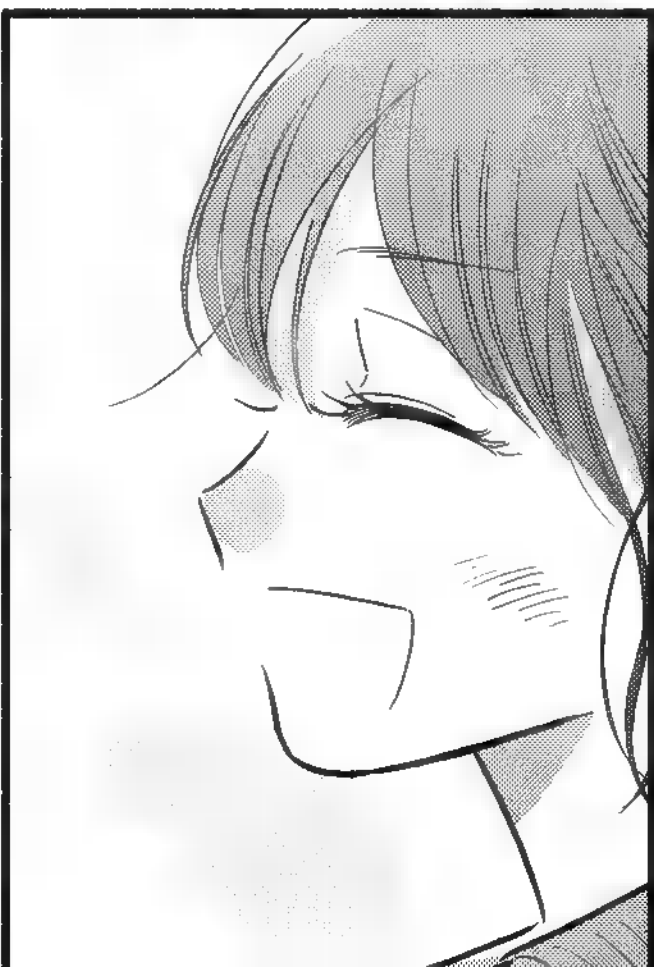




...TO BECOME
SOMEONE
SPECIAL...



...TO THE
GUY I LIKE.



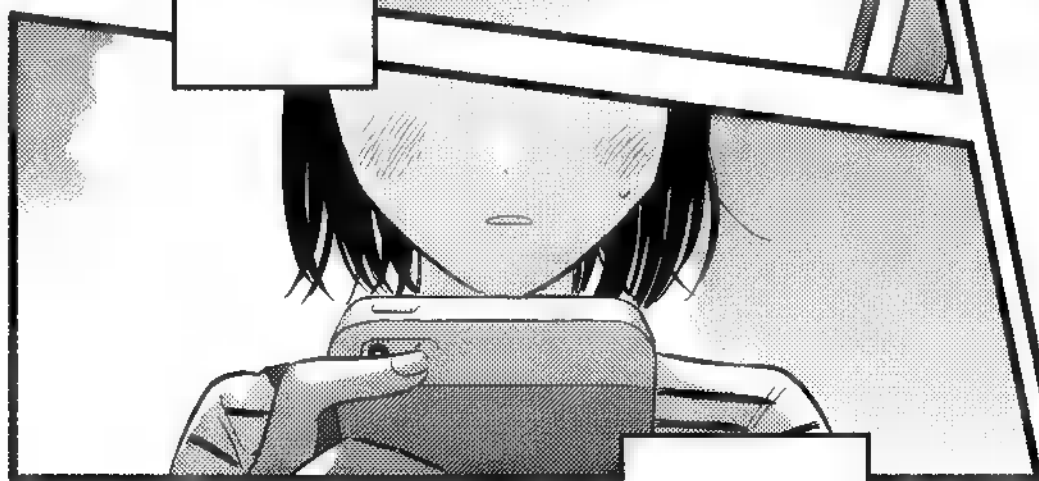


WHO'S
TEXTING
ME...?



ON THE
SCREEN...

HUH?



...WAS THE
NAME OF THE
GUY I LIKE...



IRIE
SORRY TO S
I KNOW IT'S

FUMIKO
OKAY, SUNDAY IT IS!
THANKS!



...AND THE
WORDS...



HIROKI
WEDNESDAY
SORRY TO SEND THIS SO SUDDENLY.
I KNOW IT'S BEEN 2 MONTHS SINCE
WE TALKED ABOUT IT, BUT HOW
WOULD YOU LIKE TO GO OUT
SOMEWHERE TOGETHER AGAIN?



...THAT COULD
CHANGE "THE
WAY THINGS
ARE NOW."







*WELL,
I SENT IT...*



WE
AGREED
TO MEET
UP AGAIN
SOMETIME,



AND THEN
WENT OUR
SEPARATE
WAYS.



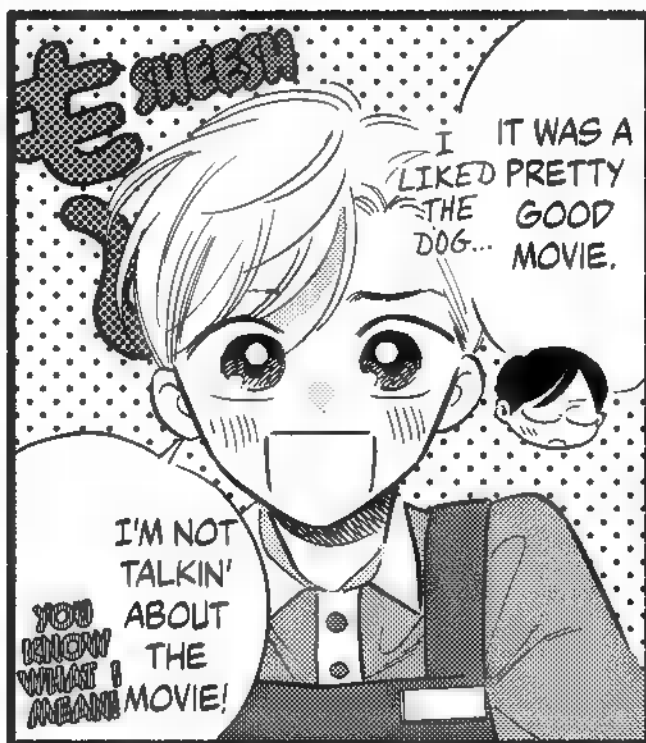
ABOUT
TWO
MONTHS
BACK,

TANAKA-
SAN AND I
WENT OUT
TOGETHER.

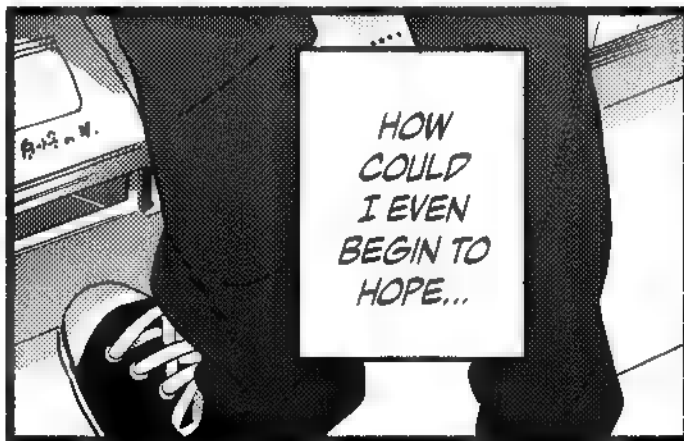
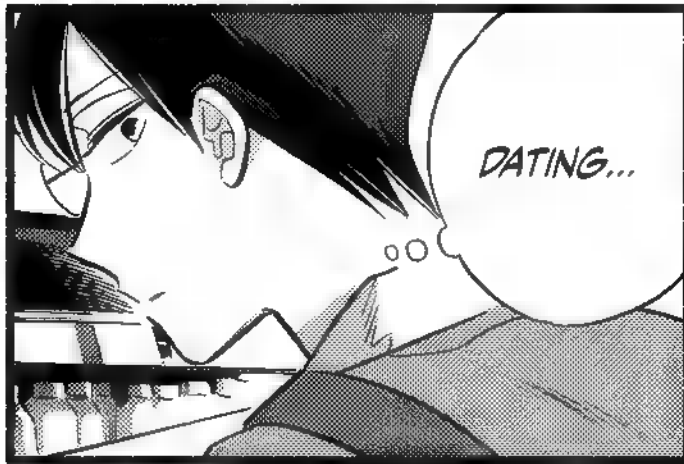


A FEW
DAYS
LATER...

WHERE
SHOULD WE
GO NEXT...?











"SEEMS LIKE
YOU GUYS
AREN'T FAR
OFF FROM
DATING!"





...WHAT TO
DO NEXT.

...I'M NOT
ENTIRELY
SURE...



HAVE A
GOOD
EVENING.

OH,
SURE.



OH!



...



GO AHEAD.

THEY'RE
BOTH VERY
COMPROMISING.

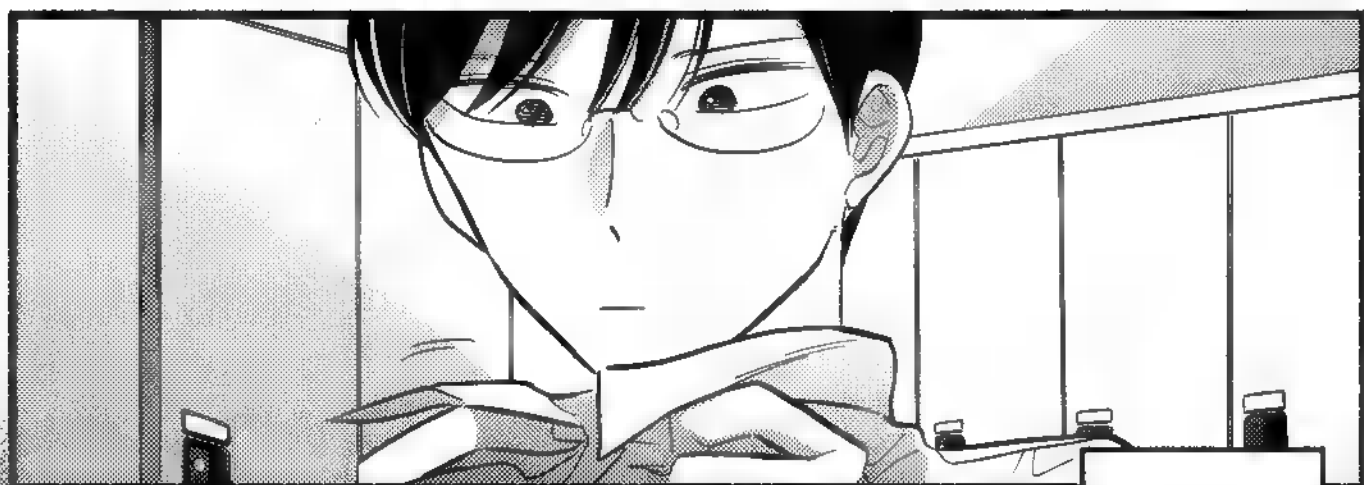
GO
AHEAD.



AH
GOT IT.
THANKS FOR
TELLING
ME.

LOOKS LIKE
SUGAR AND
EGGS ARE
ONE PER
CUSTOMER
TODAY.

I CAN'T SAY
ANYTHING
NOW.



...THAT KIND
OF THING
SEEMED SO
FAR REMOVED
FROM MY OWN
LIFE.

I HEARD
HE GOT A
GIRLFRIEND!

WHOAH!

A
HA
HA



YES, GOOD
MORNING!

EVEN
THINKING
BACK TO
WHEN I WAS
LITTLE...

GOOD MORNING!

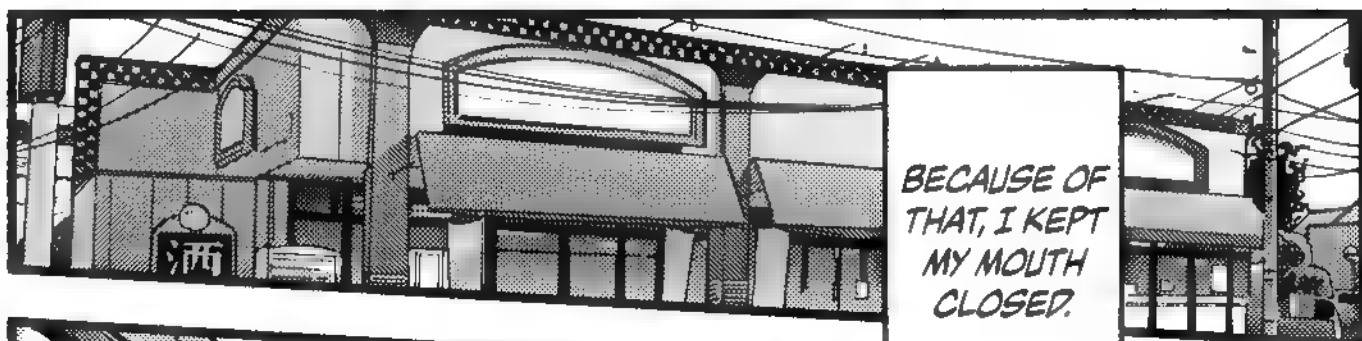


...OR A PERSON
WHO WOULD
FIND VALUE IN
MY AFFECTION...

THE
IDEA OF
ROMANCE...



...WAS NOTHING
BUT A FAR-OFF
CONCEPT.





TIME PASSED...





WHAT IF I
ASKED HER
OUT AGAIN,

AND SHE
FIGURED OUT
HOW I FELT
ABOUT HER?



...AND I GOT
SCARED.



BUT...



I BECAME
AN EXPERT AT
INNOCUOUS
CONVERSATION.



I'M SURE
THIS IS THE
BEST WAY TO
BE HAPPY.



WITH A FUN
MEMORY...

...AND ENOUGH
DISTANCE TO KEEP
FROM GETTING HURT.



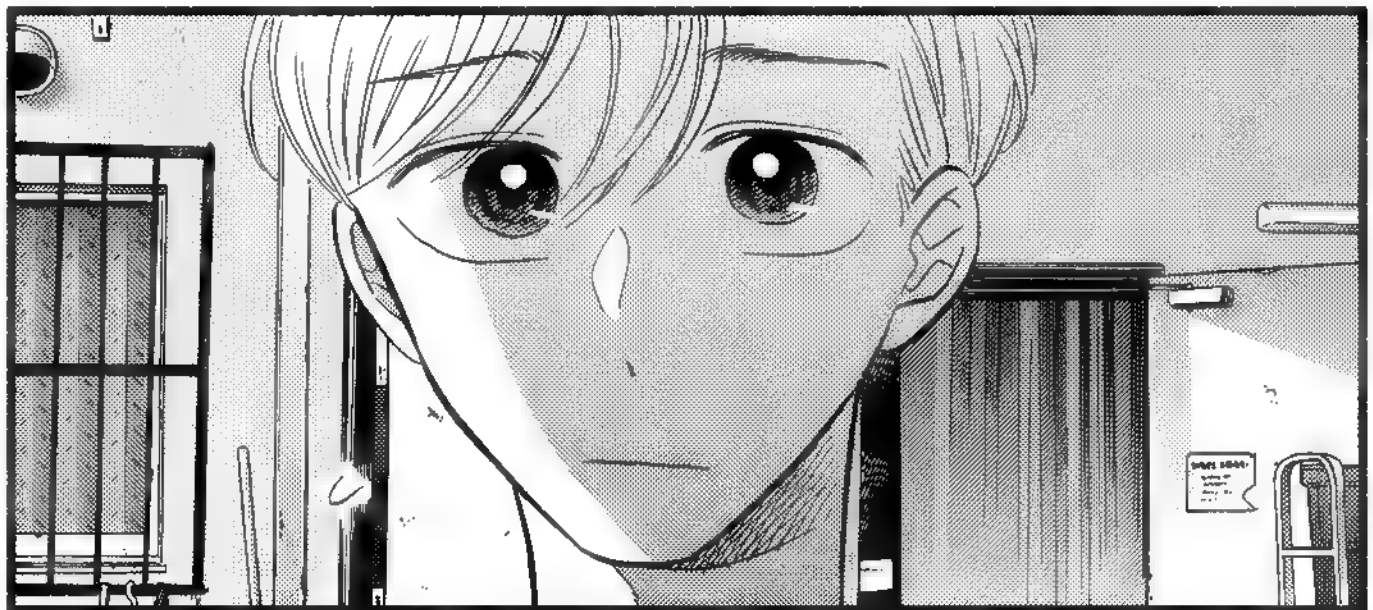




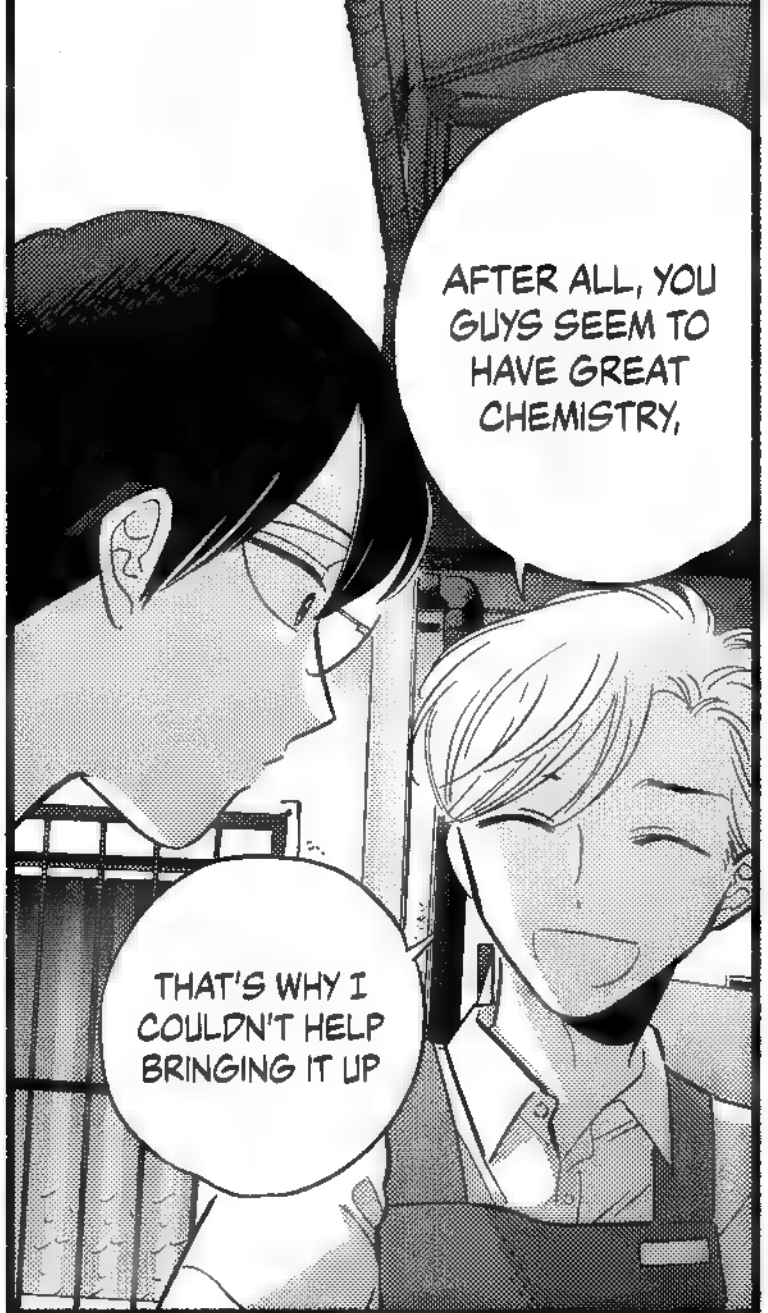
...I DID CHOOSE
TO CONFIDE IN
SOME SHAMELESS
ONLOOKER WHO'S
JUST WATCHING
FOR KICKS, THEY
WOULDN'T GET IT.



UH-OH.









AND
WHO...

COULD MY
AFFECTIONS
HAVE SOME
VALUE?

DO I REALLY
HAVE THAT
LUXURY?



...WOULD
SEE THAT
VALUE?

BUT I
SUPPOSE
I'LL KEEP
HANGING ON.

I'M
FILLED WITH
NERVES AND
UNCERTAINTY.

I HAVE
TO.







HOW TO FACE
HER HAS BEEN
ON MY MIND...



...BUT ONLY
IN MY MIND
SO FAR.

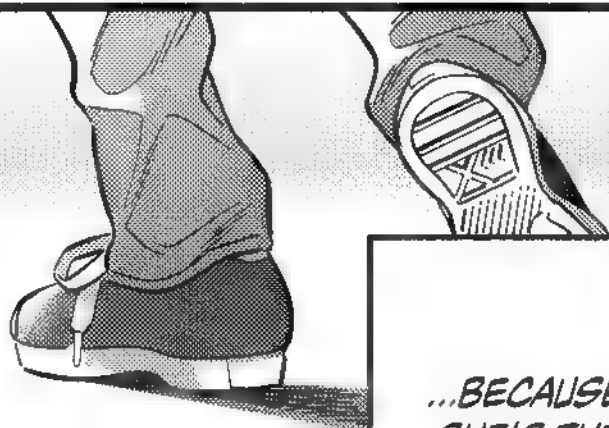


...BEYOND
ALL MY
ANXIETIES...



BUT IN
TRUTH...

...I
KNOW...

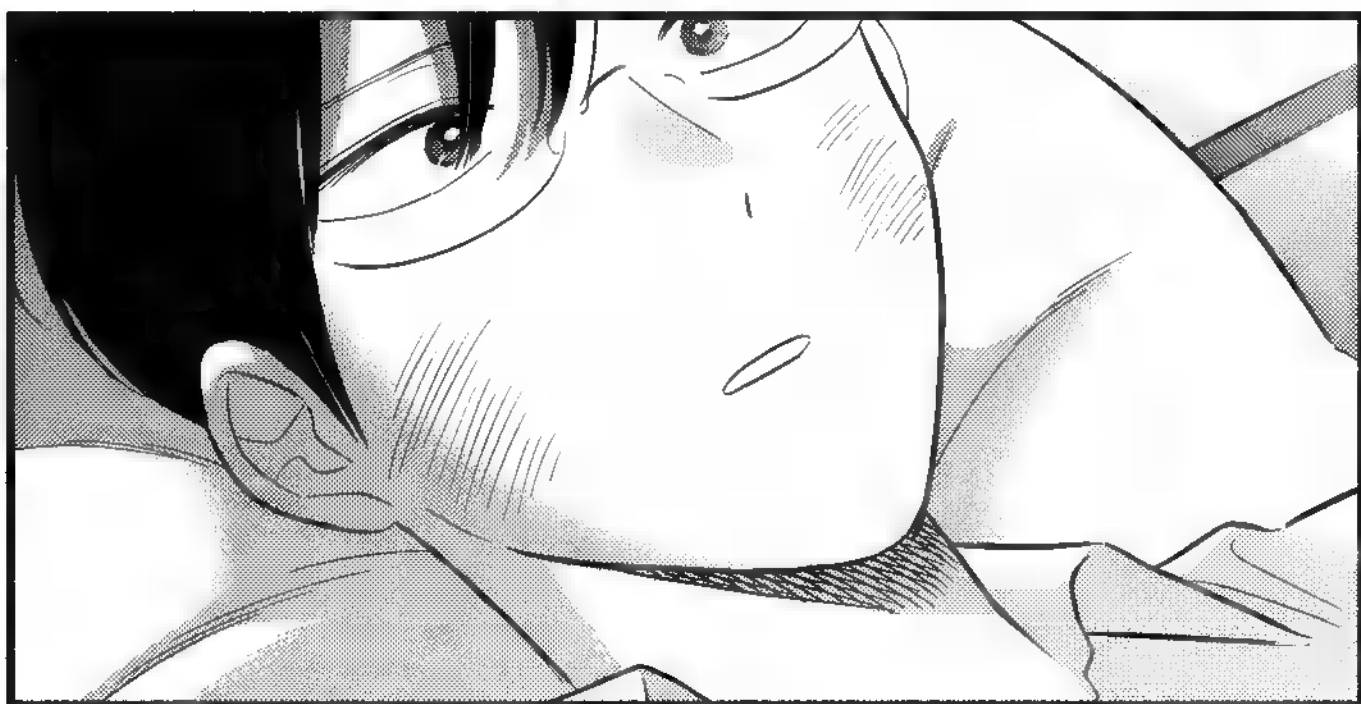


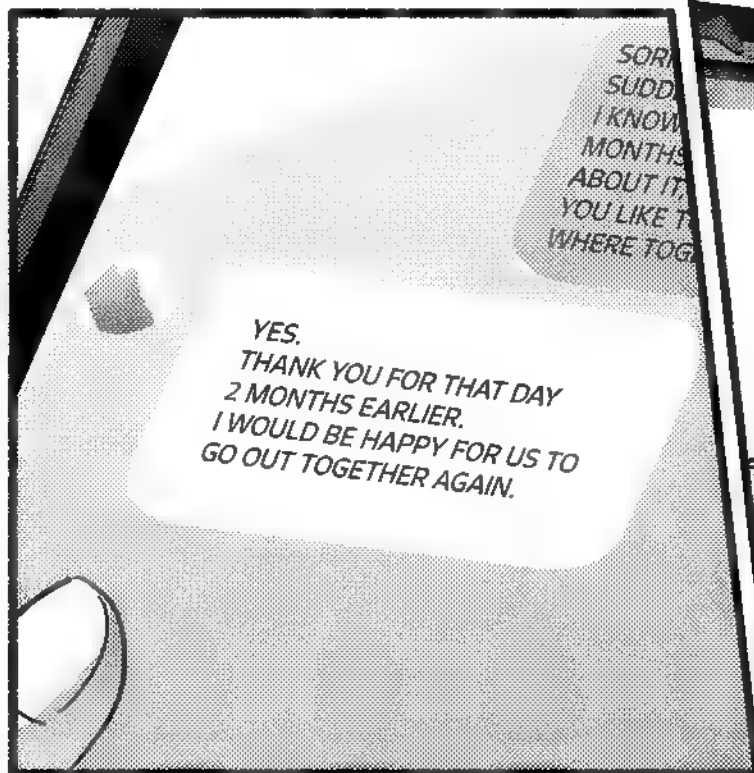
...I NEED
TO FACE
HER...

...BECAUSE
SHE'S THE
PERSON I
CARE FOR.







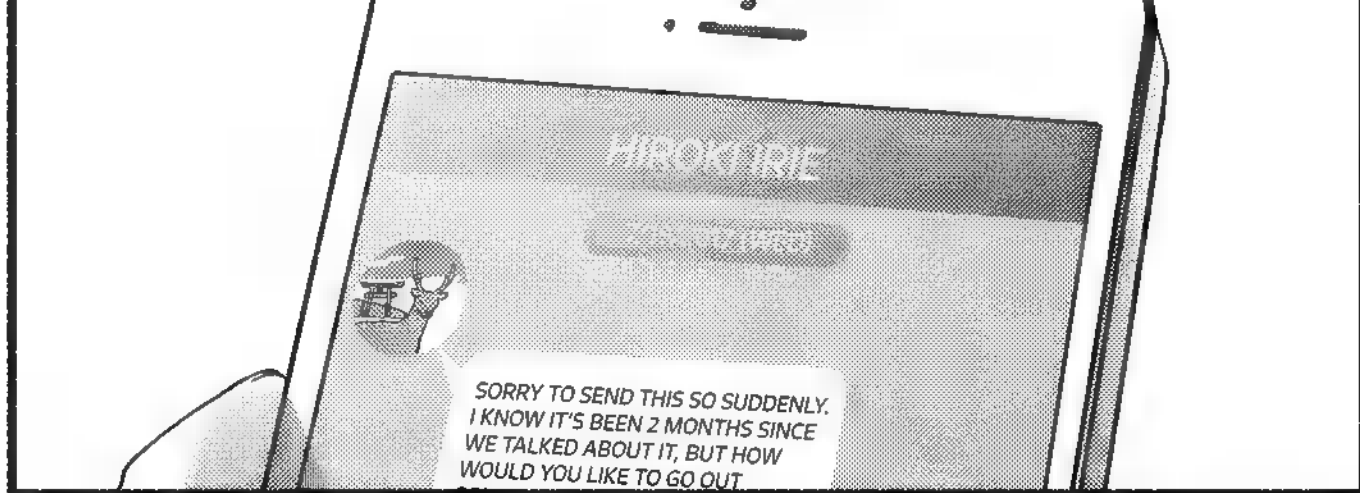






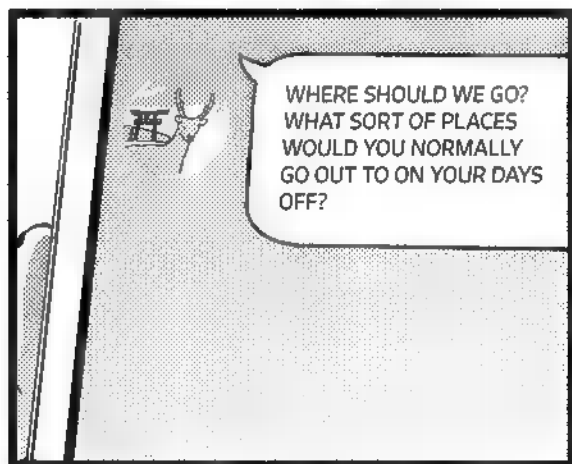
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Akane Tamura







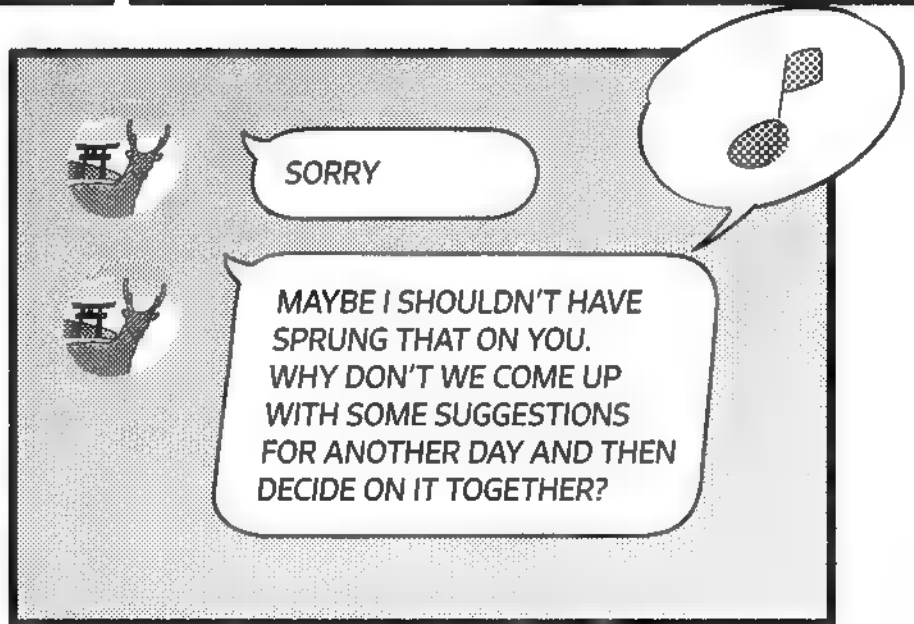
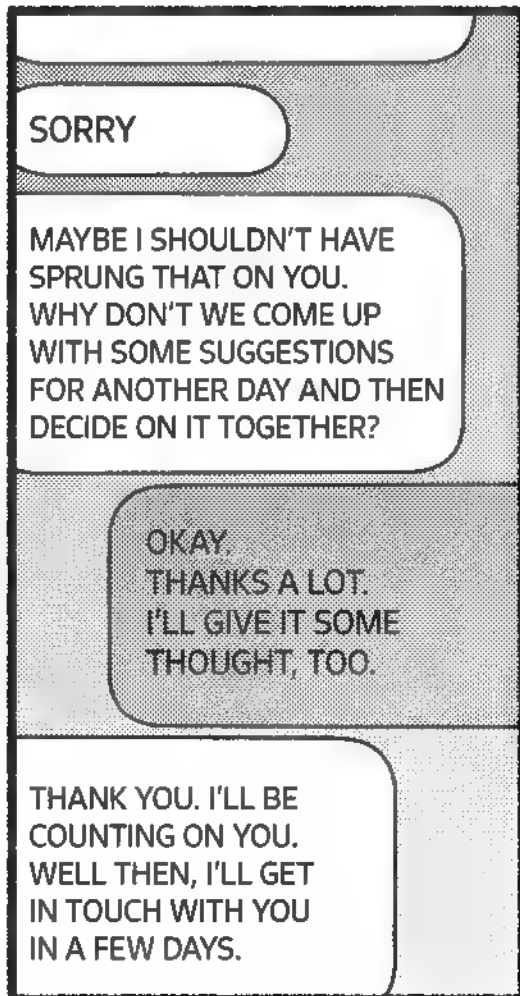
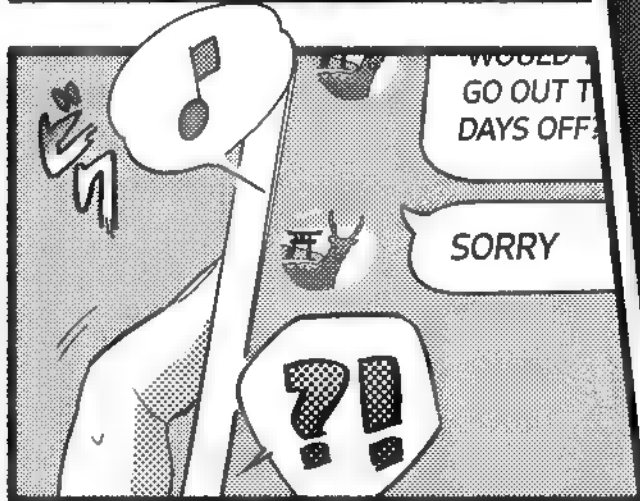
...HAVE HAD A
CONVERSATION
ON RINE!

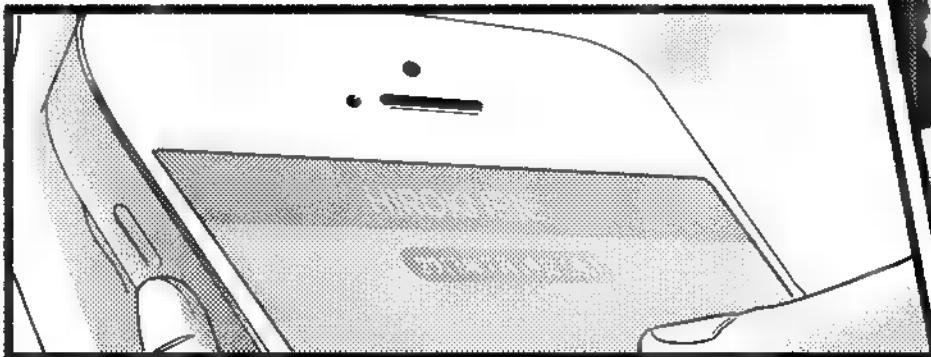


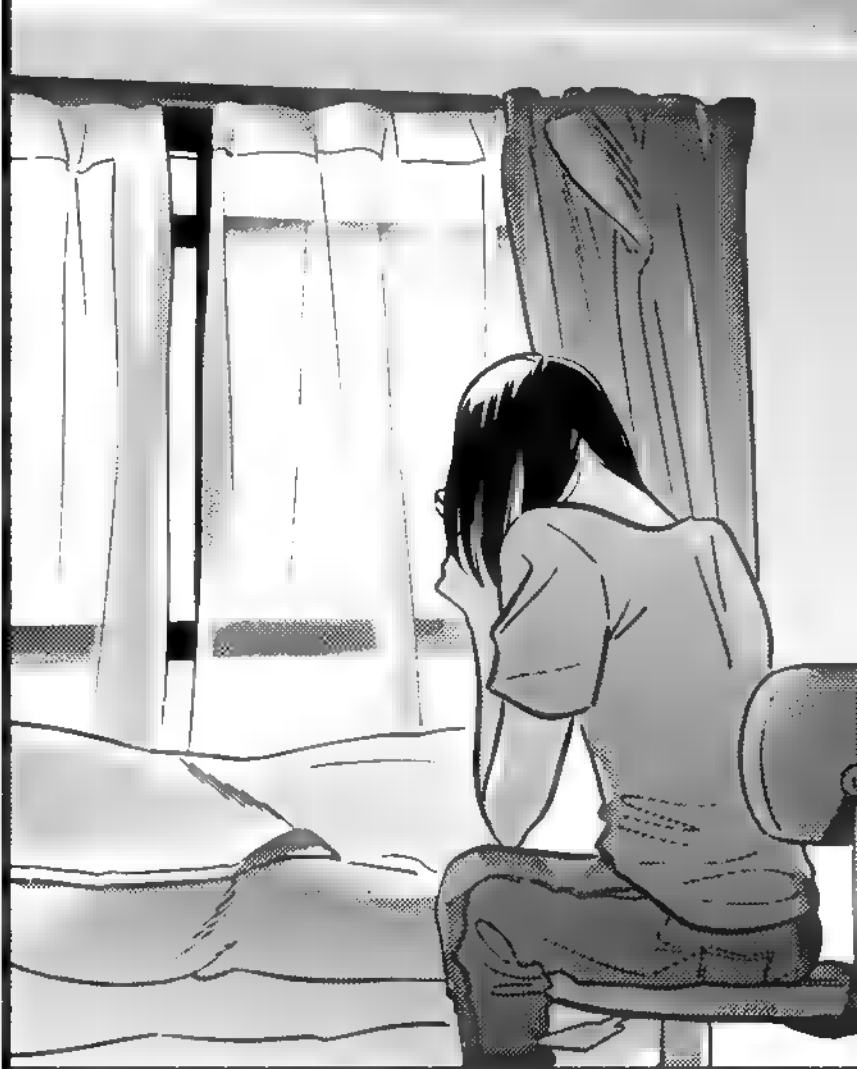
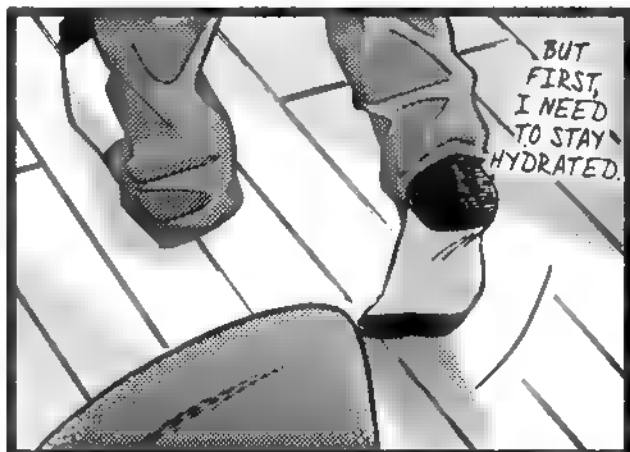
THE MOST I EVER DO
IS GO WANDERING
AROUND THE CITY
WHEN MY FRIEND
INVITES ME OUT...



IF I TELL HIM
I HARDLY EVER
GO ANYWHERE,
HE'LL LOSE
INTEREST!

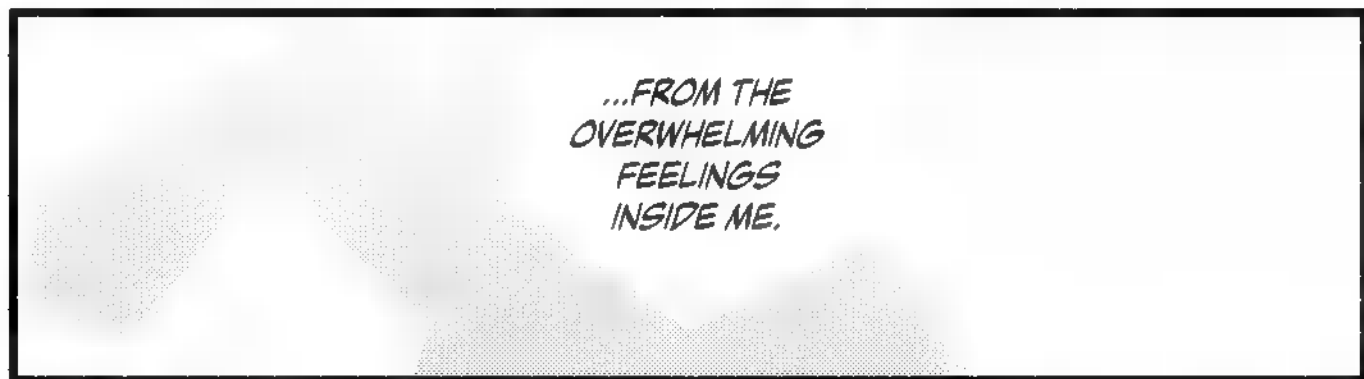




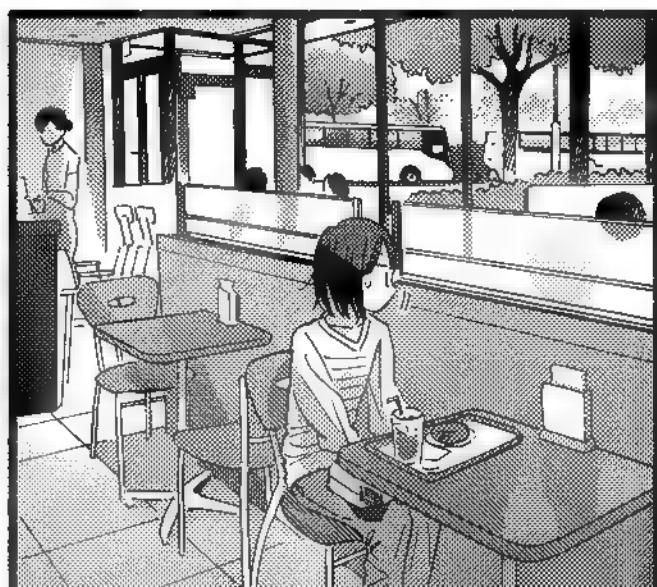
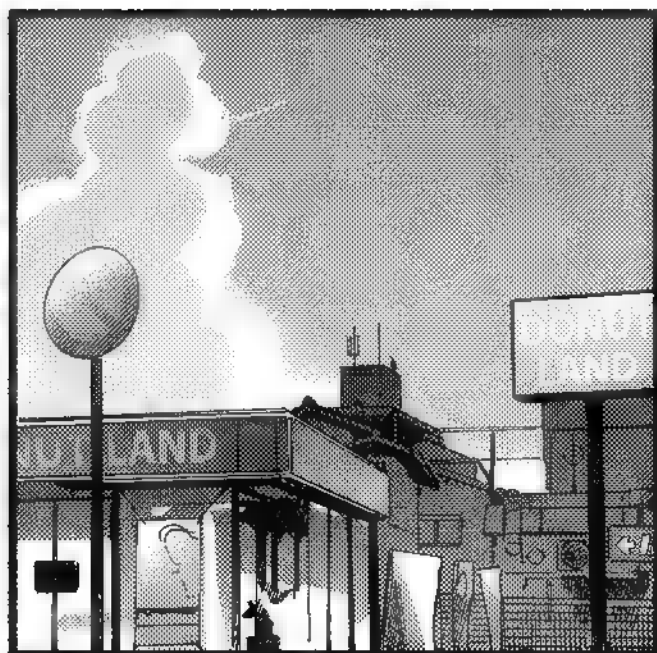




I ONLY JUST
SAW THE
EXPRESSION
ON MY FACE...



...FROM THE
OVERWHELMING
FEELINGS
INSIDE ME.







NEXT: ON THE MIDDLE STREET, THERE'S A CAT CAFÉ.

MEOW~

IT'S SAID THAT IF MARY, THE CAT ON THE CAFE SIGNBOARD, CRIES OUT WHILE YOU'RE VISITING, YOU'LL BE BLESSED WITH GOOD FORTUNE.



FIRST, THERE'S A VARIETY STORE NEAR THE HARBOR WITH A CAFÉ ATTACHED.



THEY SELL ACCESSORIES WITH FLOWER DESIGNS, AND THEIR SHAVED ICE IS FLUFFY AND TOPPED WITH HOMEMADE LEMON SYRUP. IT'S VERY POPULAR.



WHAT A FLUENT EXPLANATION...

...THAT IRIE-KUN LIKED SWEETS AND CUTE THINGS SO MUCH!

I NEVER REALIZED...

THERE'S ALSO A CHOCOLATE FESTIVAL, WHERE A FRENCH CHOCOLATIER WILL BE...

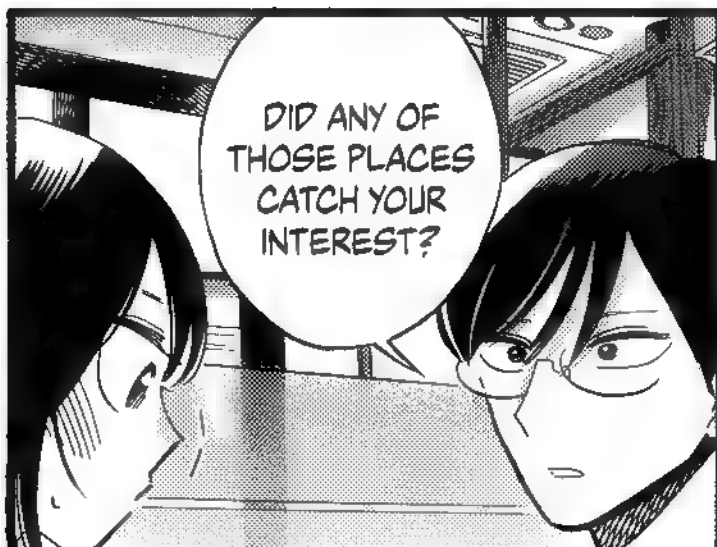


THAT'S GOOD TO HEAR.

OH,

THEY ALL SOUND AMAZING...

Y-YES.



DID ANY OF THOSE PLACES CATCH YOUR INTEREST?



THERE IT IS!

WHAT SORT OF
PLACES DID YOU
FIND?



BROUGHT
SOME
PRINT-
OUTS

RUSTLE

I...I
RESEARCHED
A LOT OF
PLACES...

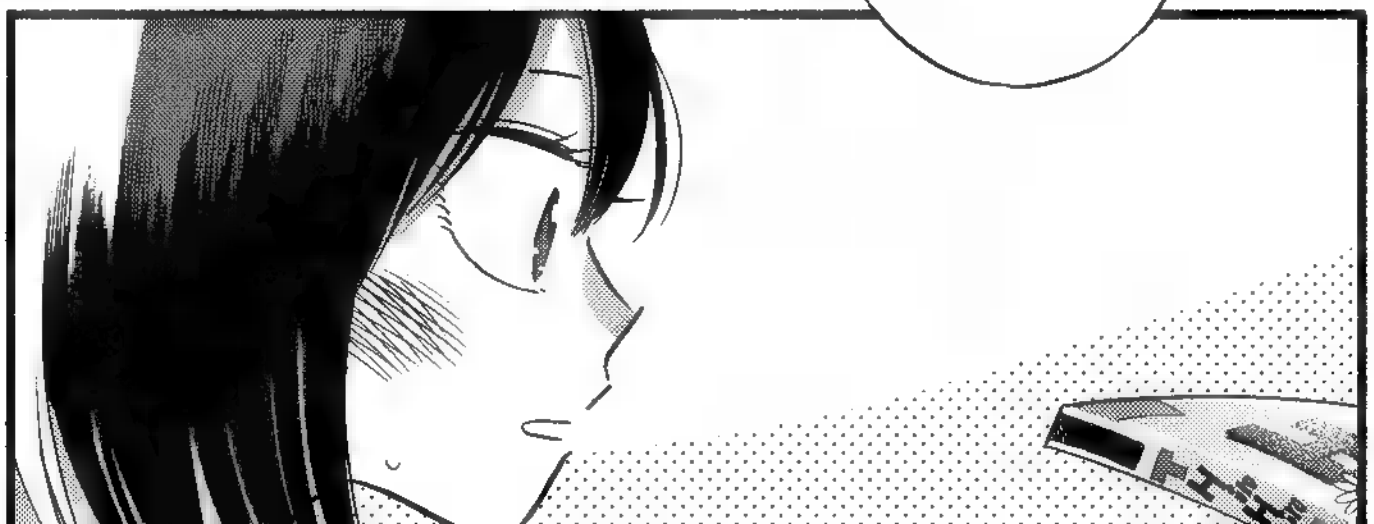
...BUT MINE
WILL PALE IN
COMPARISON
TO IRIE-KUN'S
PICKS.

初心者向け 野球観戦
肉 80店舗から出店
7/1~5
百



BUT THE MORE
RESEARCH I
DID, THE LESS
SURE I WAS.

NO MATTER
WHERE IT
WAS, I
WANTED HIM
TO FIND
IT FUN.





SAME
HERE.

THESE ARE ALL
JUST PLACES THAT
WERE LISTED IN THIS
MAGAZINE...



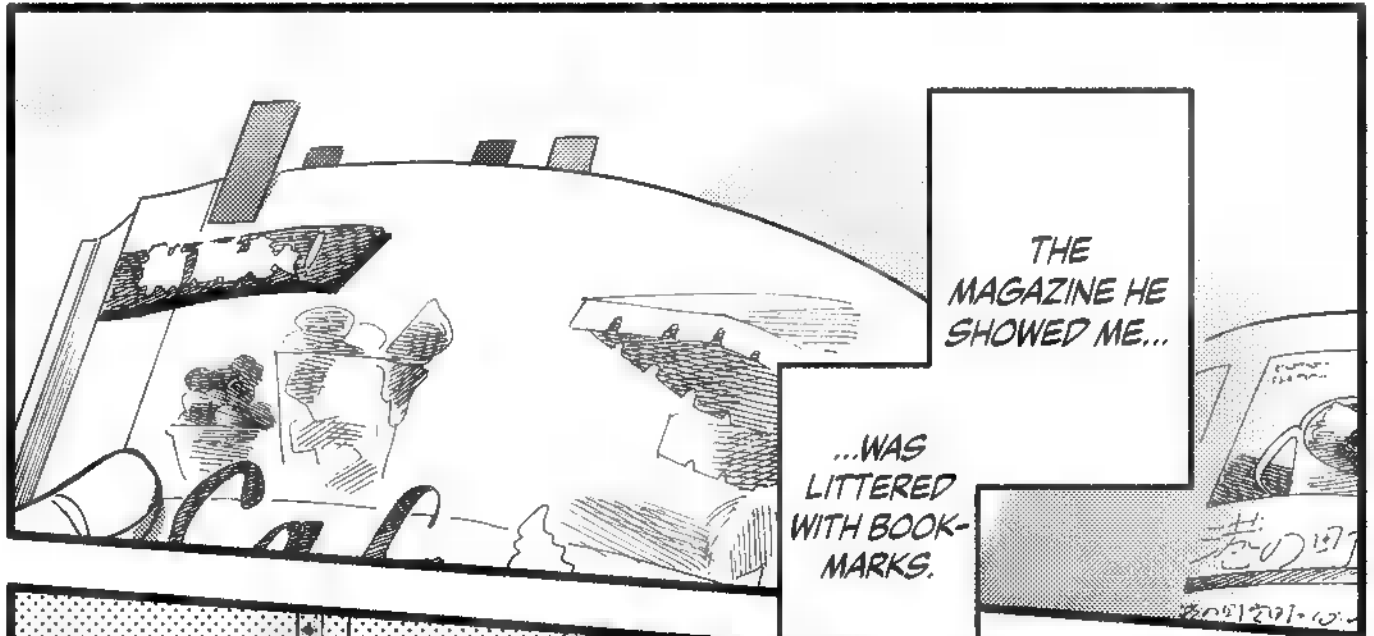
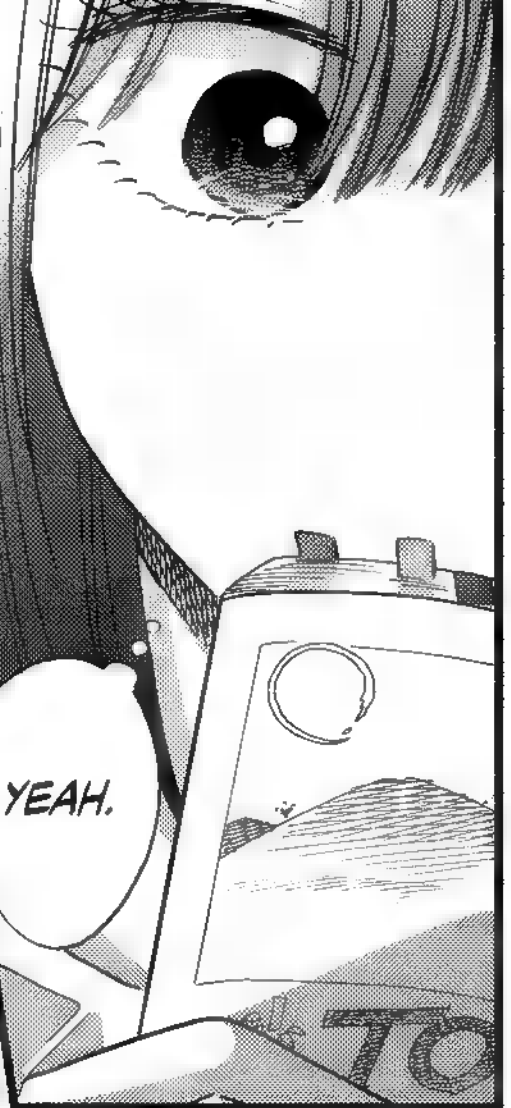
SO I WENT
WITH A BUNCH
OF PLACES THAT
IT SAID ARE
POPULAR WITH
GIRLS.



I'M NOT THAT
KNOWLEDGEABLE;
IN FACT, I HAD TO
RESEARCH EVERY
ONE OF THESE.



IT'S
TOUGH, HUH?
EVERYONE IS
DIFFERENT,
AFTER ALL...





OH
THAT'S EVEN
BETTER.

THIS
WEEK-
END

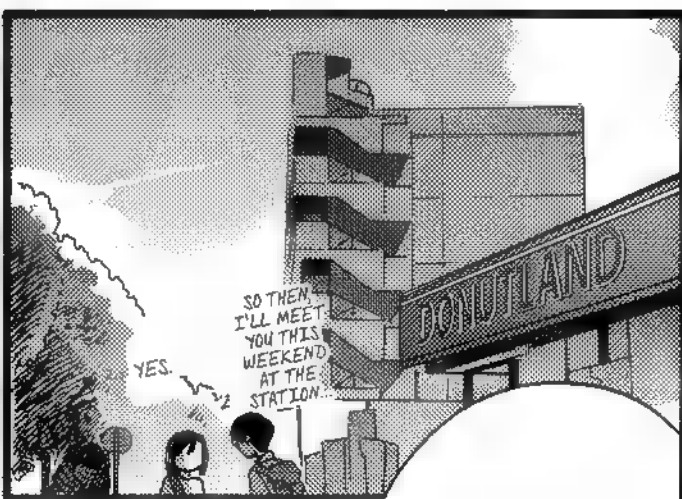
YES, AND
IT LOOKS LIKE
THEY HAVE AN
EVENT GOING
ON.

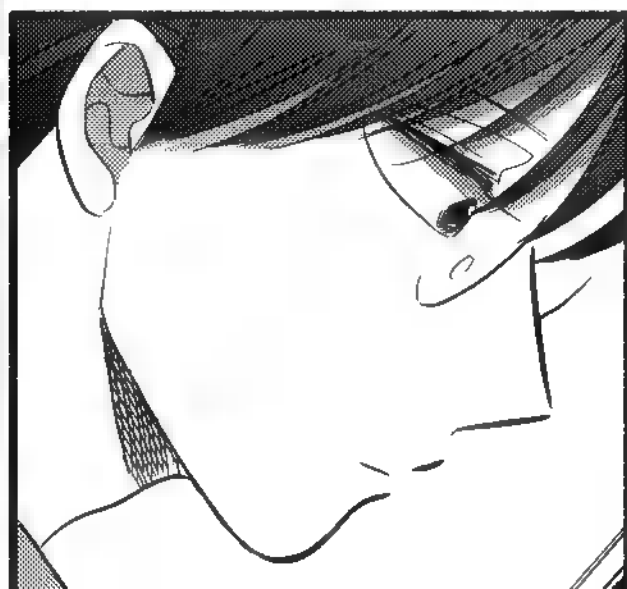


WE SAID
IT AT
THE SAME
TIME.

WHAT A
COINCIDENCE.









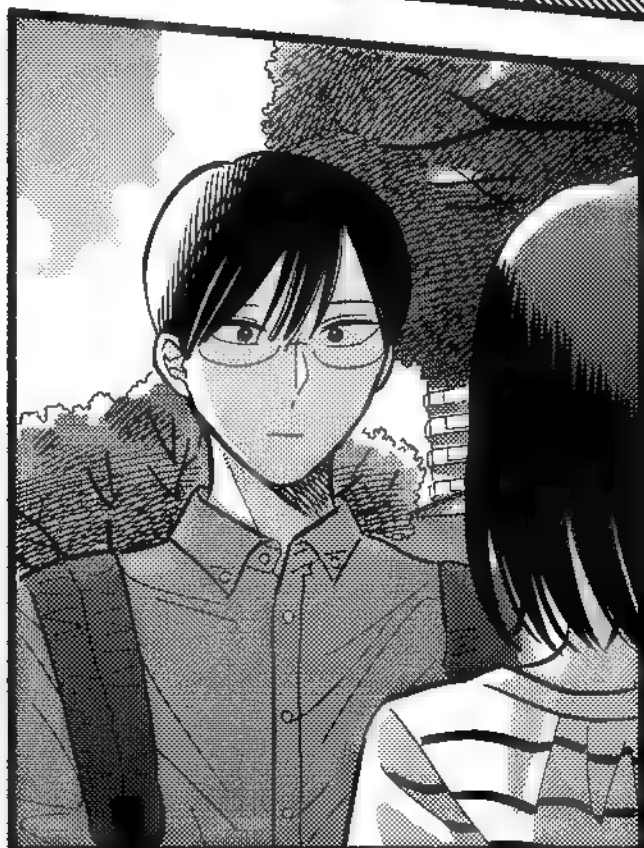
LET'S
JUST BRING
UMBRELLAS!

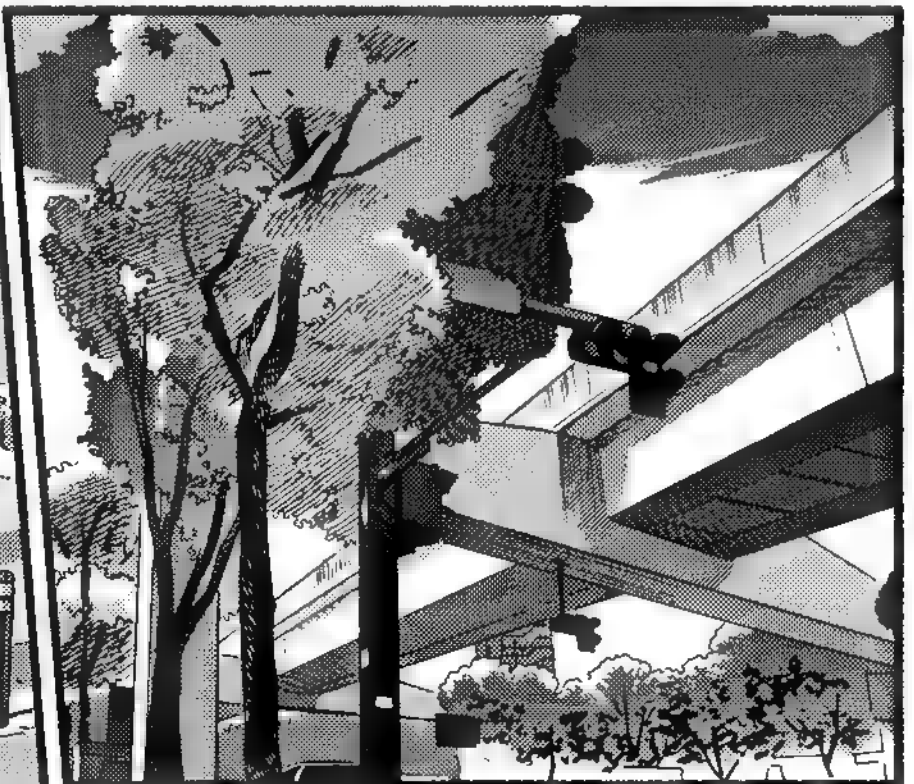
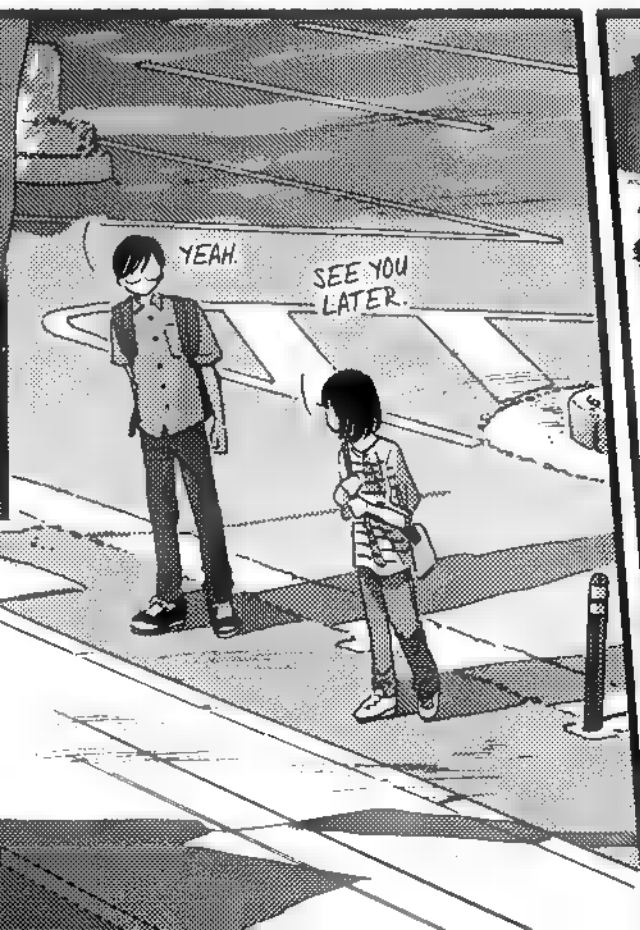
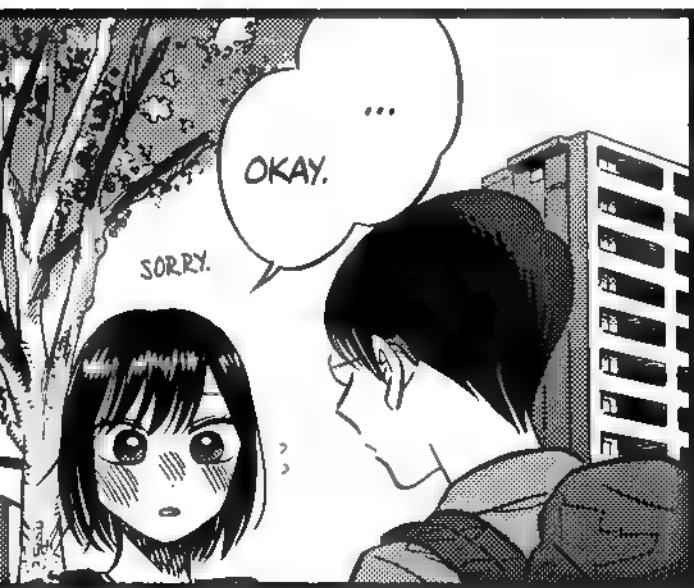
WE---



...CAN
GO TO THE
MUSEUM...









EVEN
THOUGH
HIS FORM
IS ALREADY
FADING
INTO THE
DISTANCE.

I'M
RELUCTANT
FOR US TO
PART,



I
FEEL...

...THE URGE
TO TURN
AROUND
WELL UP
INSIDE ME.



BUT...



...IF I TURN
AROUND...

...I'M
SURE...





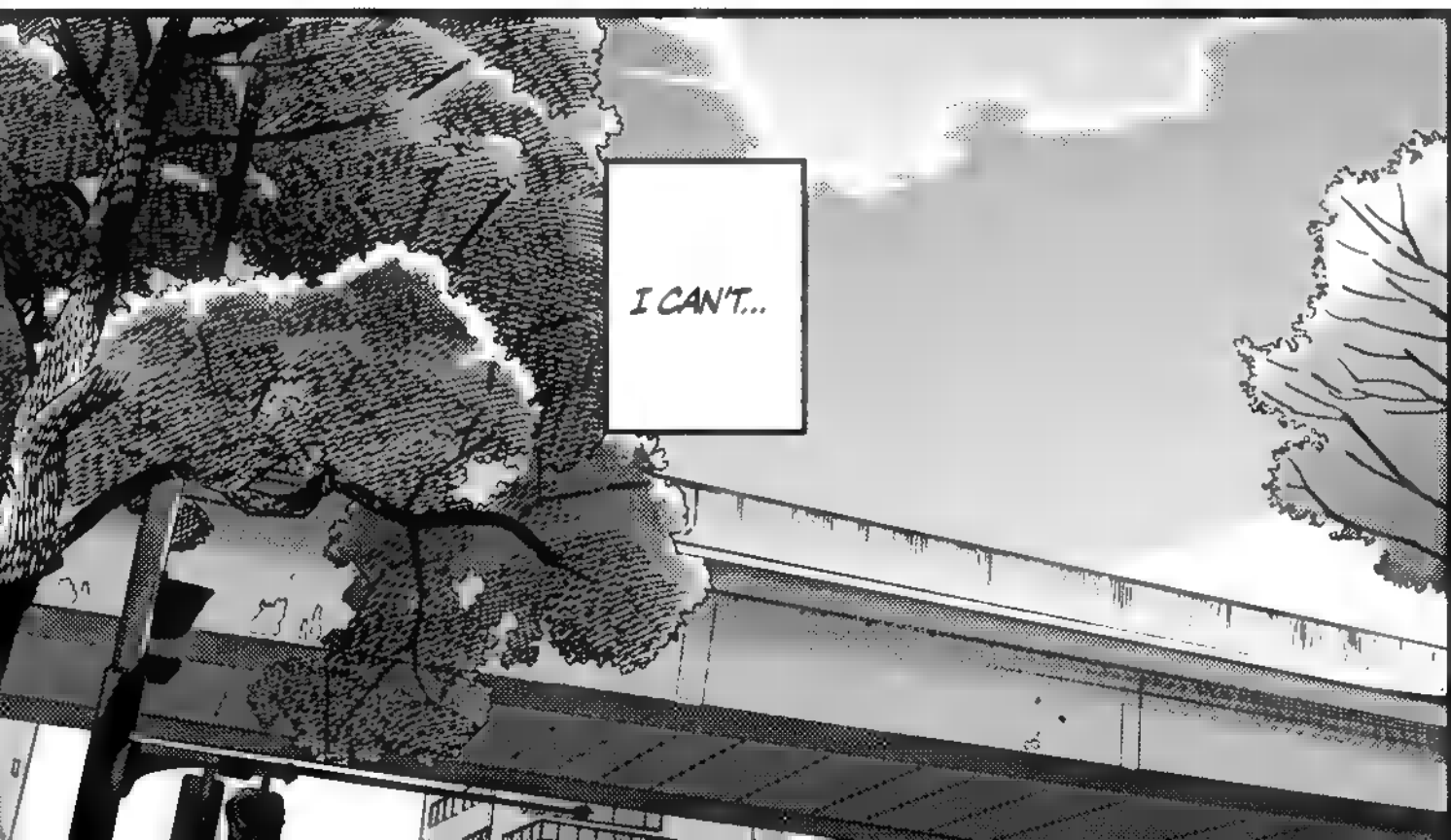


SO,

I'LL KEEP
MOVING
FORWARD.



I DON'T
WANT HIM
TO SEE MY
FACE.



I CAN'T...

...KEEP
STANDING
STILL ANY
LONGER.



PREPARING FOR THEIR DAY OUT





**A SIDE
CHARACTER'S
LOVE STORY**
Akane Tamura





TODAY
IS THE DAY
IRIE-KUN
AND I
DECIDED...



...TO VISIT
THE ZOO.



I HAVEN'T
BEEN ON A
TRIP LIKE
THIS SINCE
ELEMENTARY
SCHOOL.

OHH

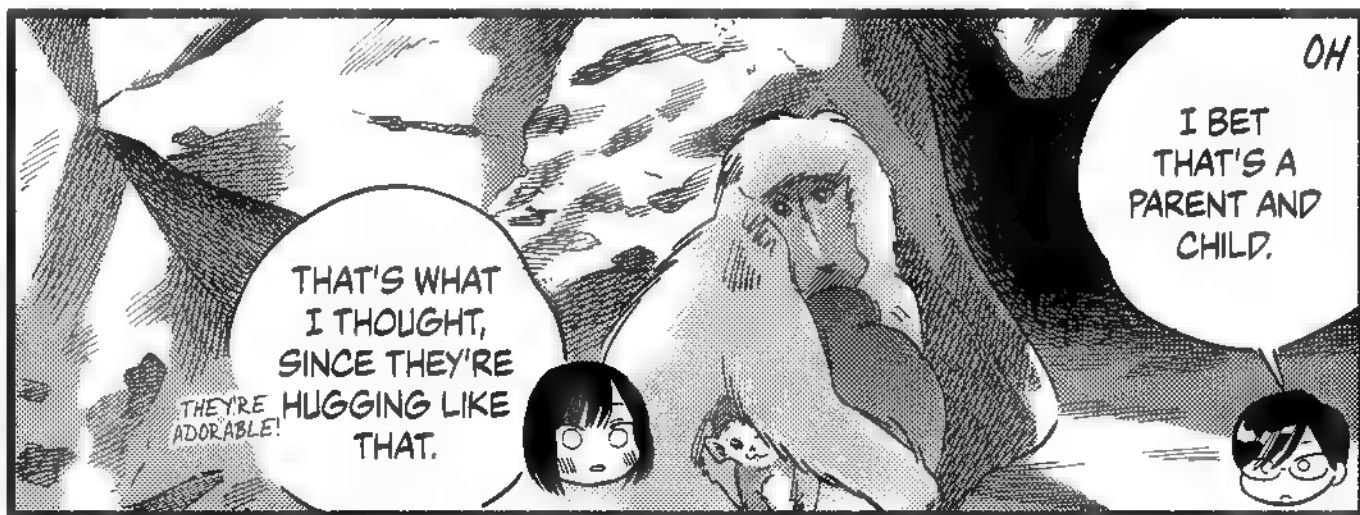
THAT SURE
BRINGS BACK
MEMORIES.







...TO BE
AT LEAST A
LITTLE BIT
FUN.



WILL HE THINK
I'M RUSHING THEM
IF I LOOK OVER?

EVEN AT THE ART OR
HISTORY MUSEUM...

STARE

PRETTY...

MOBUKO'S QUIRKS:
SHE'LL USUALLY MATCH
SOMEONE ELSE'S PACE,
SO SHE'S UNABLE TO MOVE
ON HER OWN.

I HAVE NO IDEA
HOW FAST OR SLOW
WE'RE SUPPOSED
TO GO THROUGH
THE ZOO...

NO,
THAT'S
OKAY.

B-BMP
ドキ

AH...

SHALL
WE MOVE
ALONG? UH,
OR IS IT TOO
SOON?







YOU'RE
RIGHT.



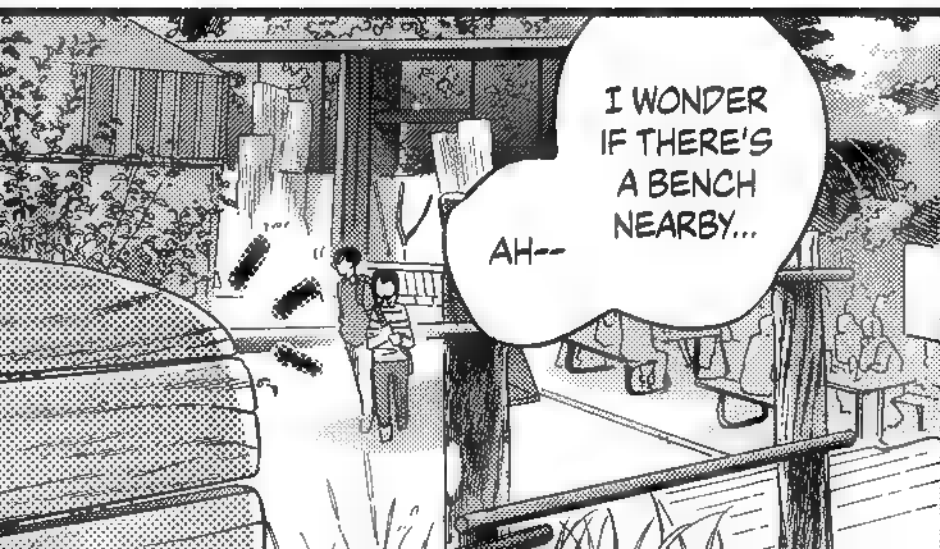
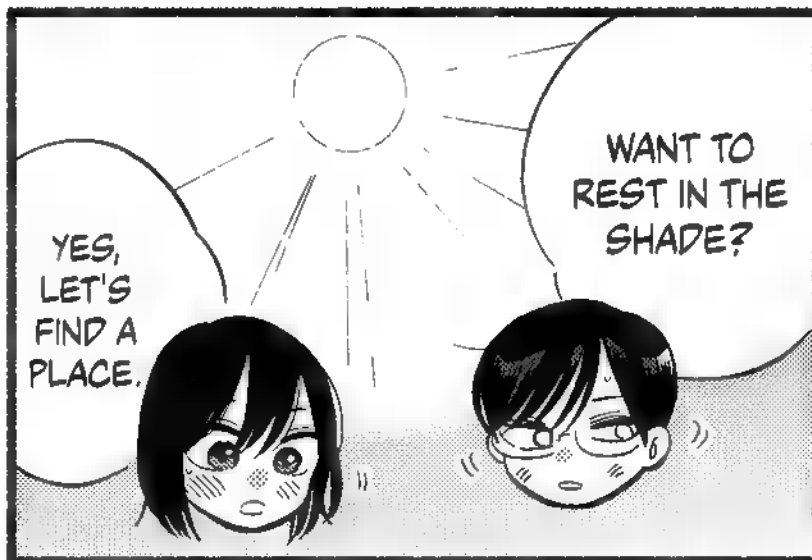
OH--



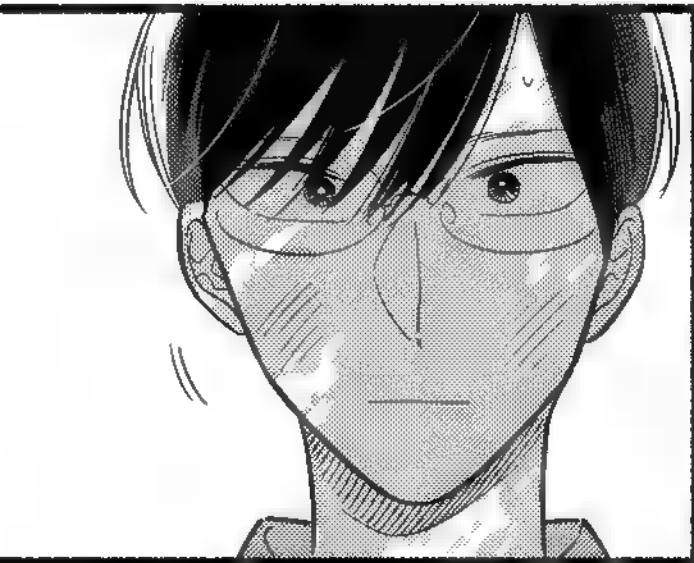
NO,
IT'S OKAY!

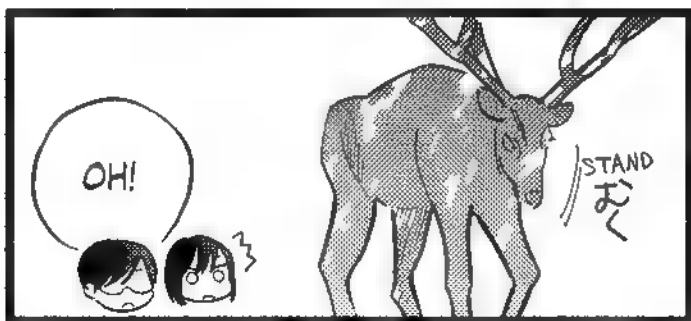
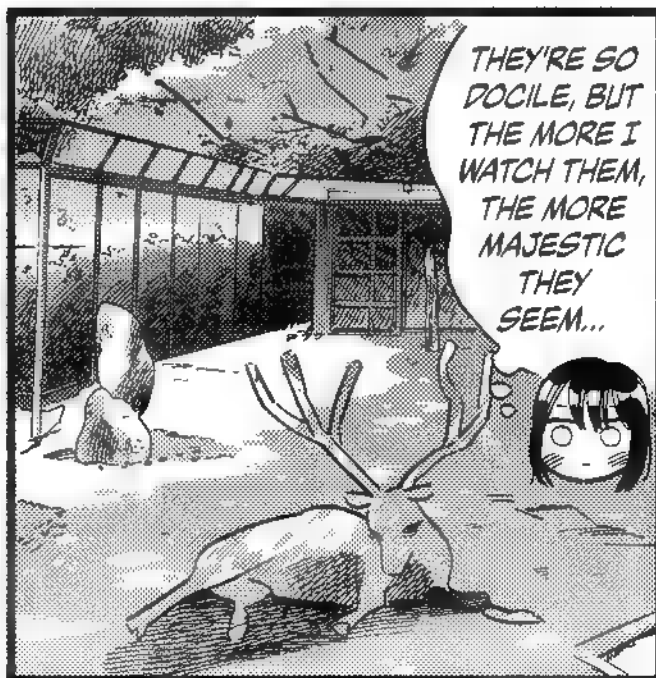
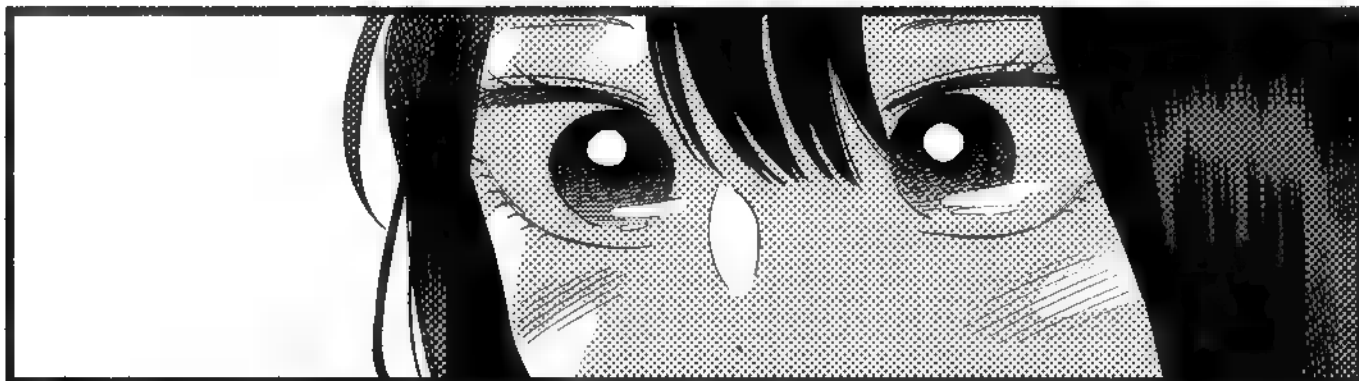
PARDON
ME.

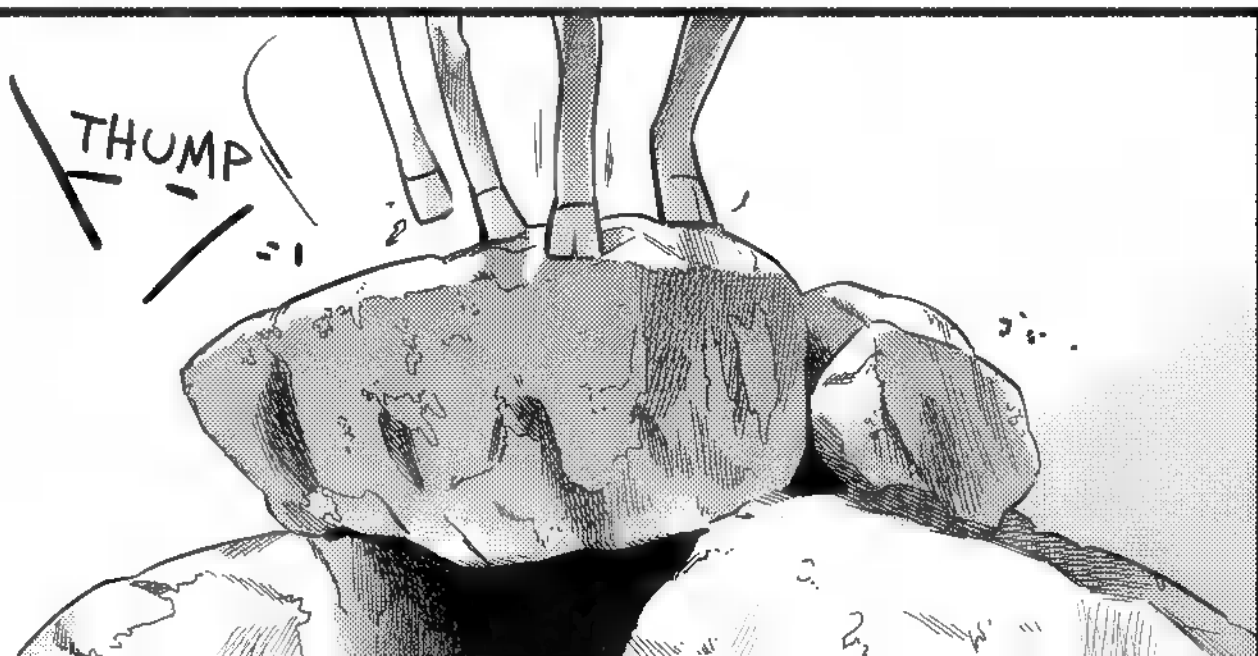
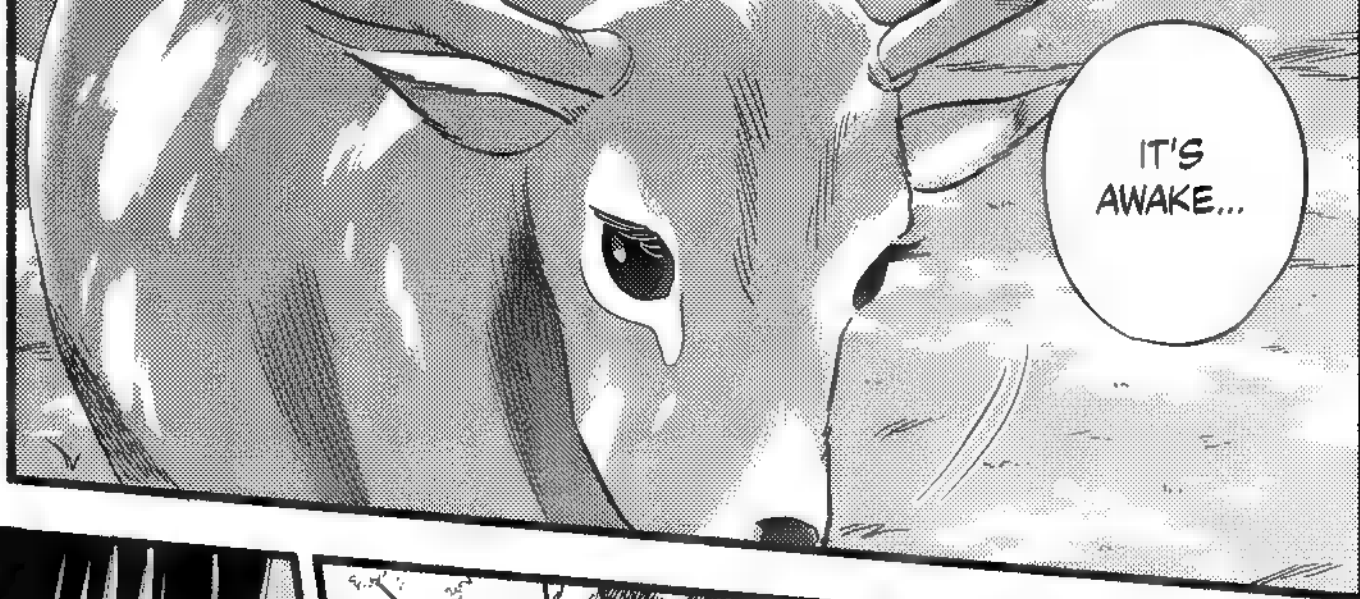
SLIDE



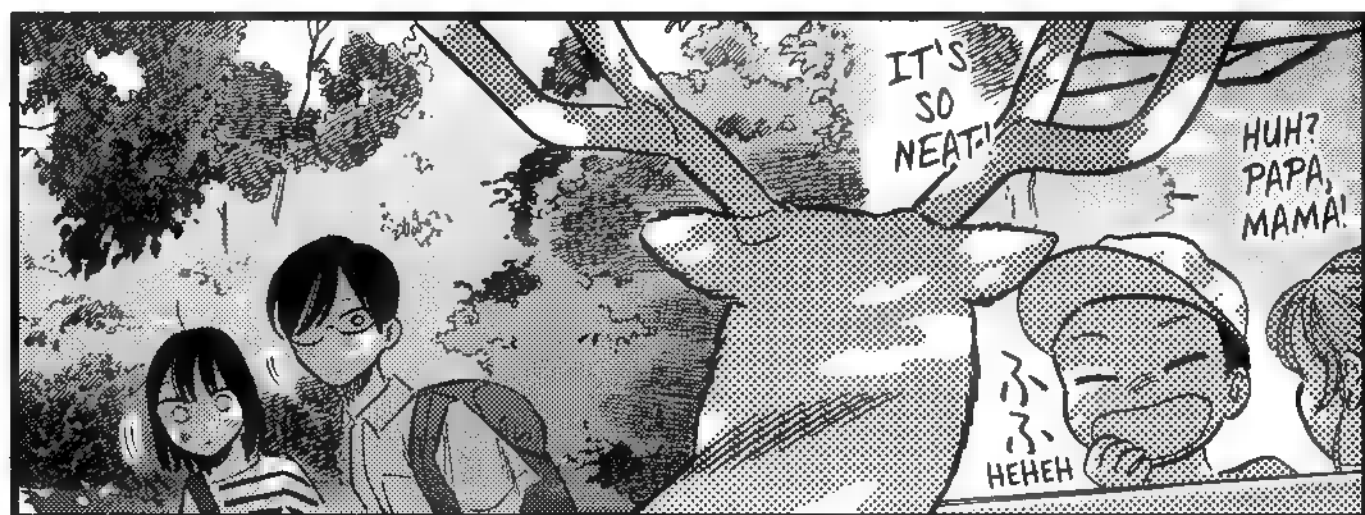


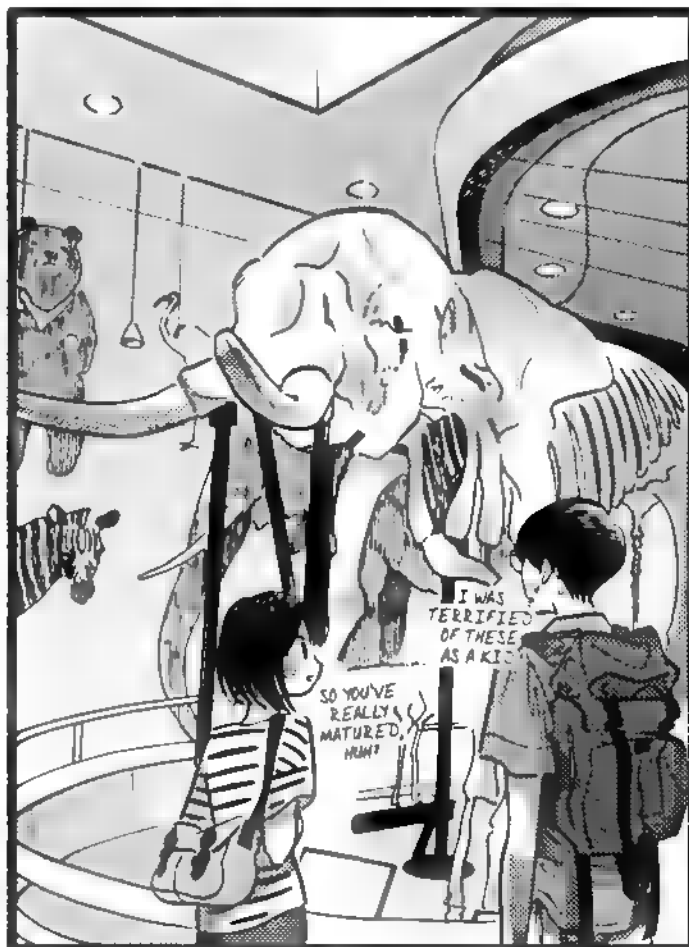


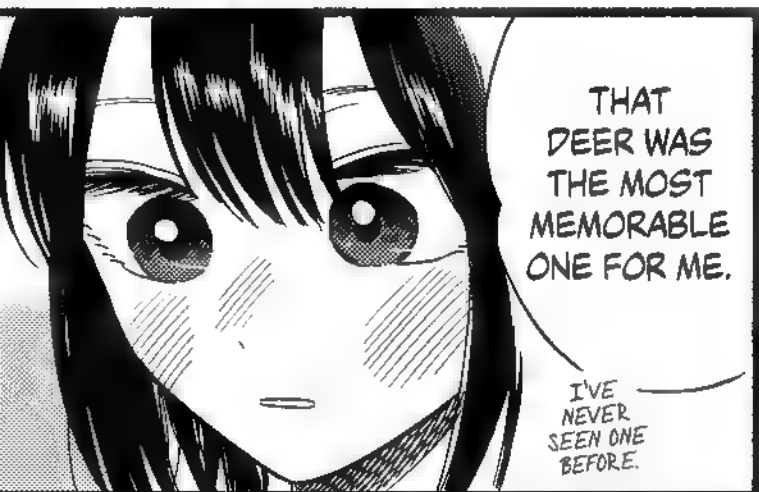


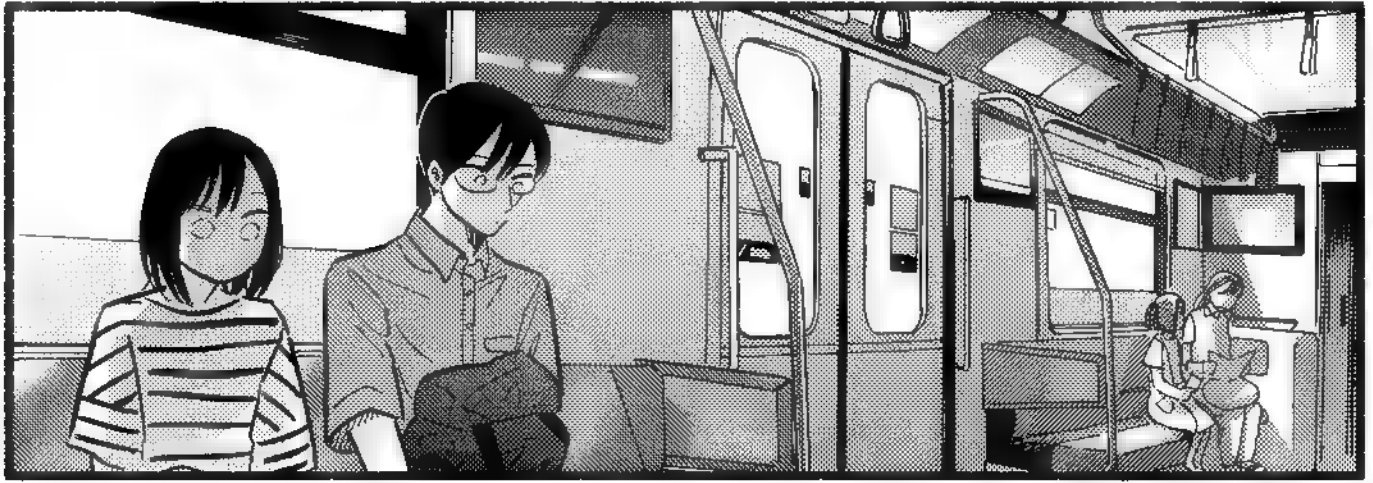








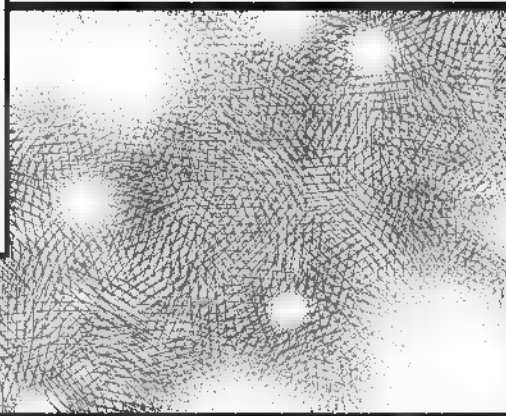




...I DECIDED
TO MOVE
FORWARD BY
INVITING HER
OUT AGAIN.



WE SPENT
ALL DAY
TOGETHER,
BUT...



IN TRYING TO
PROPERLY
FACE MY OWN
FEELINGS...



WATCHING
THROUGH
THE
GLASS...

...I HAVE NO
IDEA HOW
THINGS
WENT...

CALM
あん...





NICE
JOB!

IT'S NOT
REALLY...

SO YOU
ACTUALLY
INVITED HER
OUT!



I'M
REMEM-
BERING
SOMETHING
KANEKO-SAN
TOLD ME.

WOOW!



YOU'RE NOT EVEN
GOING OUT YET
AND THIS IS YOUR
2ND DATE, RIGHT?
I BET YOU'LL
HAVE A GREAT
TIME!

NAH
THAT'S
NOT IT.

DO YOU LIKE
THE ZOO?

SIGH

HOW NICE...

U KANEKO-
SAN...



COME TO
THINK OF IT,
I HAVEN'T
BEEN TO THE
ZOO SINCE
ELEMENTARY
SCHOOL.
I WANNA
GO TOO



YOU GUYS
ARE IN THE
BARGAINING
STAGE, STILL
FIGURING EACH
OTHER OUT.

BUT
EVEN SO,
THIS IS THE
MOST FUN
PART!



I...



...DIDN'T
INVITE HER
OUT BECAUSE
I ENJOY
BARGAINING.



ME
TOO.

I'M GLAD
WE WERE
ABLE
TO GO!!

SAME TO
YOU. THANK
YOU VERY
MUCH.



THANKS
SO MUCH FOR
TODAY.



YES.

WELL,
SEE YOU
LATER.

I'M
SURE
SHE'D
TAKE IT
KINDLY.

...TANAKA-SAN
REALIZED
HOW I FEEL,

EVEN IF...

LATER.



I WONDER IF
WE'LL BE ABLE
TO GO OUT
SOMEWHERE
TOGETHER
AGAIN?





IF THERE'S
ANY PLACE
I WANT
TO GO...



...IT'S...

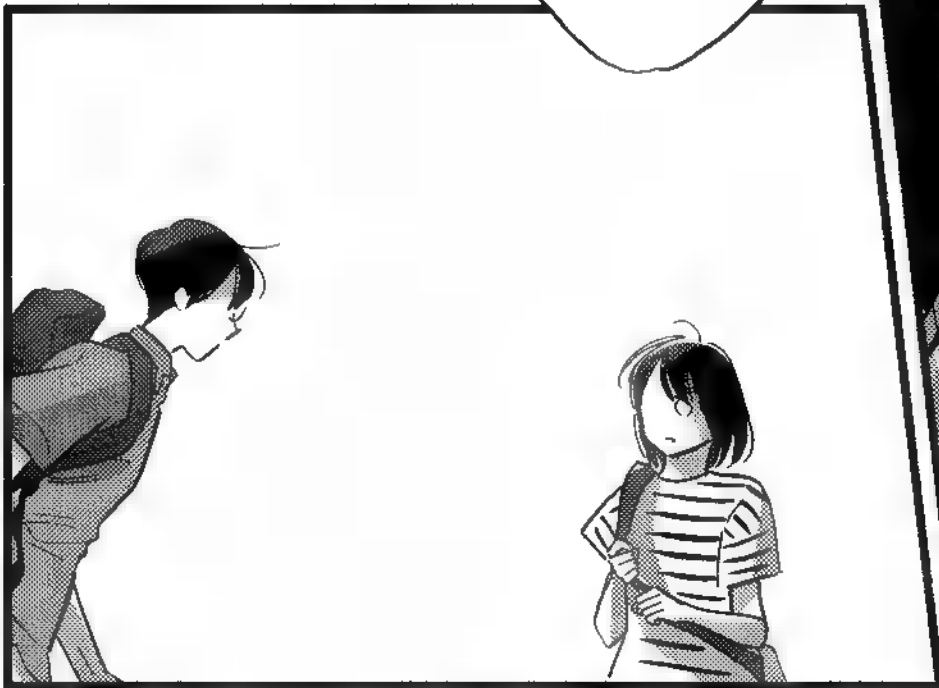




TANAKA-SAN.



UH...







THERE'S
SOMETHING
I WANT TO
TELL YOU.



WE WENT TO THE ZOO!



ONE DAY, IN
THE BREAK
ROOM...

HEY EVERY-
ONE! WANNA
SAMPLE SOME
FRESHLY-MADE
CROQUETTES?

MMM

WHAT'S WITH THE CUTE GIRL POSE?

I WAS
MIMICKING
YOU...

HUH? IS THAT HOW I ACT?!

YOU
TOTALLY
DO!

SO YUMMY~!
THERE'S
CHEESE,
AND... OH,
BASIL?

SOME
TEA, IF
YOU WANT
IT...

RIGHT?!
I DON'T
REALLY GET
THE COMBO,
BUT IT'S
DELICIOUS!

CRUNCH

MUNCH

十
七
二
十
七
二



HUH?
WHAT THE
HECK IS
THAT?!

SO, HOW'S
MY KANEKO
IMPRESSION?

OKAY,
THEN I
WANNA
TRY.

NO WAY!
WHEN HAVE I
EVER DONE
THAT POSE?

I DON'T
REALLY KNOW,
MYSELF!



THAT'S
SHINO-
ZAKI-
SAN!

A
HA
HA
HA

"I COULD
FALL ASLEEP
STANDING UP,
RIGHT HERE!"

AHH~

SURE...

TRY
IT.

THEY GO
'GREAT
WITH
KETCHUP.

"CHECK
IT OUT,
I'M ON A
DIET!"

HUH?
WHO'S
THAT?

THE
MANAGER!

HUH?



OKAY, WHAT
WOULD IRIE-
SAN BE
LIKE...

IRIE...?

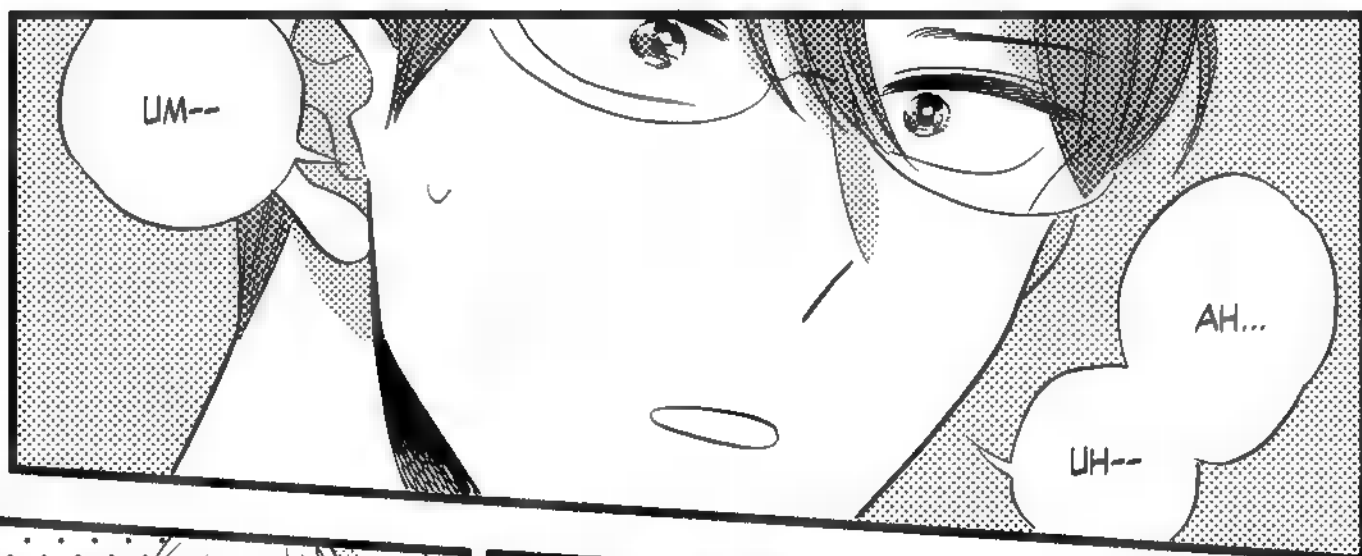
HMM...

BUT
EVERY
PERSON
WITH
GLASSES
DOES
THAT...

PUSHING UP
HIS GLASSES!

LIKE
THIS, I
BET!

YEAH!







THE DAY
ABE-SAN
STARTED
WORK,

WE SWAPPED
CONTACT INFO
AND SAW HER
OFF.



NEXT
TO
ME...



GOOD-
BYE!



IT'S
QUIET

HAVE A
GOOD
NIGHT!





I ENDED
UP KIND OF
DRAGGING
HER HERE...
I WONDER
IF SHE'S
ACTUALLY
HUNGRY?

...I WAS
STILL
UNAWARE
OF MY OWN
FEELINGS...



RIGHT!
ONE
MEDIUM,
PLAIN
UDON!

I'LL HAVE
A SMALL
PLAIN
UDON.

HMM
うーん



I'LL HAVE A
MEDIUM
UDON
WITH
EGG.
YESSIR!



EXCUSE
ME, SHE
ORDERED A
SMALL, NOT
A MEDIUM.



BUT...

I WONDER
WHAT WE
SHOULD
TALK
ABOUT...

SINCE I
INVITED
HER HERE...



I RE-
MEM-
BER...



...HOW MY
FINGERS
TREM-
BLED...



...AND MY
HEART WAS
RACING.



IT WAS
PROBABLY
JUST A CASUAL
CONVERSATION
FOR TANAKA-
SAN.



BUT FOR
ME...



...RIGHT
AWAY, THAT
NIGHT FELT...

...SPE-
CIAL.



...IT STILL
FEELS THAT
WAY.



EVEN
NOW...





A Side Character's Love Story 3 Akane Tamura

A Side Character's Love Story Vol. 3

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